

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 27th August, at London Mission, Peking, the wife of the Rev. T. HOWARD SMITH, of a daughter.

On the 27th August, at T'eh Yang Hsien, Szechuan, to Yr. and Mrs. W. HOPE GILL, of C.M.S. West China Mission, a daughter.

On the 10th September, at Gaoler's Quarters, 'Aiping, Straits, the wife of JAMES KYDD, Prisons Department, of a son.

On the 15th September, at Chatsworth, Penang, the wife of EDGAR MABER TOZER, Advocate and Solicitor, of a daughter.

On the 19th September, at Yokohama, the wife of HAROLD E. HAYWARD, of a son (stillborn).

On the 21st September, at Yokohama, the wife of H. ABEGG, of a daughter.

On the 23rd September, at No. 24, Range Road, Shanghai, the wife of WILLIAM ALLANSON, of a son.

On the 25th September, 1903, at Stolzenfels, The Peak, the wife of Mr. HANS SCHUBERT, of a son.

On the 27th September, at Yau-mati, the wife of J. T. COURSE, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 19th September, at S. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, FREDERICK HERBERT ENGLISH, Federated Malay States Railways, to LILIAN ELLA, daughter of the Rev. W. M. NOBLE.

On the 21st September, at Shanghai, W. KELLY, M.D., and Miss G. M. HILL, both of Changteh, Hunan.

DEATHS.

On the 15th September, at Foochow, P. E. DUBARRY, of the Imperial Maritime Customs, aged 73 years.

On the 21st September, at No. 14, Kwenming Road, Shanghai, JOHN FLOOD, aged 71 years.

On the 21st September, at No. 9, Markham Road, Shanghai, WALTER PARRATT STANDRING, infant child of T. ARTHUR and HILDA J. A. STANDRING, aged 13 months.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 3rd ult., arrived per steamer *Korea* on the 28th ult. (25 days); and the German mail of the 1st ult. arrived per N. D. L. steamer *Roon* on the 29th ult. (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A. St. Petersburg edict transfers the Trans-Baikal Cossack Regiment and Battery to the Kwangtung peninsula, where an independent East-Siberian Cossack Brigade is forming.

More Mauser and Mannlicher rifles are being purchased in Shanghai, at the order of H.E. Viceroy Shun, to arm a brigade under command of, Ko Feng-shih, the new Governor of Kwangsi.

What is to become of the *Supao* prisoners when, at the expiration of their present term of imprisonment, they are set free, asks the *Japan Mail*? Probably they will come to Japan, which is getting to be a veritable asylum for all the restless spirits of the two neighbouring empires.

The *Jiji Shimpō's* correspondent telegraphs from Peking that, according to news received in that city from St. Petersburg, the Russian Government has rejected the proposals submitted by Japan in connection with the Manchurian question. The *Japan Mail* does not think that any truth attaches to this story.

According to Japanese papers of recent date, the presentation to China by Mr. Lessar of the new demands, ignoring the negotiation that is going on at St. Petersburg, is the work of the new Viceroy of the Far East, Admiral Alexieff. They also say that Count Okuma regards the new demands as a challenge to Japan to fight.

In spite of all efforts of Governor Chou-fu of Shantung to prevent it, the Hoangho has broken its banks near Ninghai, in Leshing prefecture. The break is about 300 Chinese feet long. No human lives were lost, thanks to the precautions taken by the Governor. The Chinese Government recently refused funds to repair the banks, asked for by the Governor.

Collector Shuster has recommended to the Philippines Civil Commission that the three following places be made ports of entry: Cape Melville, at Balabag; Porta Princesa, at Parana; and Bongao, on the island of the same name. The close vicinity of these places to Borneo makes it desirable that they should be ports of entry.

The Japanese Cabinet vacancies were filled on the 22nd ult., as follows:—Minister of Justice, Mr. Hatano Yoshinao, formerly Vice-Minister of Justice; Agriculture and Commerce, Baron Kiyomasa Keigo, formerly Minister of Justice; Education, Mr. Kubota, a member of the Upper Chamber; Communications, Mr. Oura Kane-take, formerly Chief of Police.

Sir Claude McDonald wired on the 22nd ult. to Mr. J. Carey Hall, the British Consul for Hiogo and Osaka, informing him of his appointment as Consul-General. Mr. Hall entered the Consular Service in December, 1867, and since then has had a wide experience in consular work in every port of Japan. A few months ago Mr. Hall received a decoration from King Edward as an appreciation of his services to the Empire.

We are informed that the conference on naval matters between the Admirals of the China, East India, and Australian stations will not take place at Singapore, for which port the flagship of the Australian squadron, the *Royal Arthur*, was due to leave about the 15th ult., but on an island near Singapore which, curiously, is within the jurisdiction of the three commanding officers. We do not know what truth there is in the report about the island.

There does not appear to be any immediate prospect of the Chinese section of the East Asian Railway being restored to working order. Very extensive repairs were rendered necessary by the recent inundations. Thus the elements themselves are working to delay evacuation. Meanwhile, so far as the overland journey is concerned, passengers have only to go to Vladivostok instead of Port Arthur. The difference is not much, and from Vladivostok the line is intact.

The correspondent at Tokyo of the *N.C. Daily News* writes on the 24th ult.:—Owing to the presence at Yong-ampho of Chinese brigands hostile to the Lumber Company, M. Pavloff applied to the Korean Government to protect his nationals; but Korea answered that as the Russians were occupying a non-treaty settlement, they must take their own risks. To this M. Pavloff retorted, hinting at the employment of Russian soldiers, in default of the Korean protection promised by the concession to the Lumber Company.

A Peking despatch quoted by the *N.C. Daily News* states that the Governor of Chinese Turkestan has telegraphed to the Grand Council that the new Russian telegraph-lines constructed from Kiachta to Urga, Mongolia, and thence to Urumtsi, now called Tihuaifu, capital of Chinese Turkestan, have been completed. What has, however, given rise to the deep suspicion of the Governor of Chinese Turkestan is the fact that the Russians have placed a string of Cossacks along the whole of the new telegraph line "for the protection of the line," as they replied when asked the reason by the Chinese Governor, who apparently has not been to Manchuria.

The *N.C. Daily News* says:—As there seems to be some uncertainty in regard to the Treaty of Shanghai, whether it is in operation or not, it may be stated that the Treaty came into force on the exchange of ratifications at Peking last month. It is, however, only clauses I. and VII. which, from their nature, can become immediately operative, and in regard to the first, that dealing with Customs drawbacks, we understand some differences as to interpretation have arisen between the British authorities and the Taotai. The Consul-General is consulting with the Chamber of Commerce, and it is not at all likely that any interpretation which destroys the force of the provision and opens the door to the old abuses will be permitted.

THE POLICE AND CRIME.

(Daily Press, 26th September.)

Our contributor "X." in his article on "The Wave of Crime in Hongkong" yesterday dealt with one aspect—and a very important aspect,—of the question of safety for person and property in this Colony; and we trust that what he says with regard to the local police force will receive the attention which is due to it. Particularly would we point to the last paragraph but one in "X.'s" article, which ran as follows:—"The unravelling of the Colony's crimes is in the hands of the few comprising the Detective Department. The heads of this Department depend mainly on their Chinese assistants for information, not always reliable. There are only two European officers of this Department who can be said to possess a working knowledge of the Chinese language and habits. The remaining officers are dependent upon their Chinese assistants." The state of affairs described is the result of satisfactory, and it is difficult to see how the authorities propose to make much headway against the forces of crime with only such detective agency as they possess at present. However, it is plain that in the present situation it is not a case of coping with normal lawlessness in Hongkong by means of the usual weapons at the command of the law. There is at present one of those epidemics of robbery and lawbreaking generally, which periodically trouble this Colony. Why we should get these epidemics is not altogether to be explained. Of course crime does tend, like any other disease, to increase and decrease periodically, and the example of successful robberies, etc., inspires wavering wrongdoers with confidence to imitate. But it is clear that to meet unusual troubles with remedies which hardly do more in ordinary times than just keep the floating criminal population in check is not a scientific course of procedure. There has been for the last few months a large number than usual of bad characters arriving in Hongkong from the mainland, to stop here as long as the place is not too hot to hold them. Some have the intelligence to pass the selves off as "boys," others are coolies or merely loafers. All are ready to come out in their true light of thieves when a favourable opportunity offers. At their hand, the European population and the respectable Chinese community alike have been suffering very heavily of late. Snatching in the streets, burglary with personal violence, both by day and by night, ordinary purloining of jewelry and valuables, such offences have become so common that it is almost impossible for the newspapers to record all cases of the kind. Truly it is a "wave of crime" under which we are labouring at present. Is it, then, impossible to do anything but wait until that wave has rolled back once more, in accordance with past experience, and to hope that it will not trouble us again very soon? This is not to be believed. There must be something wrong with the present system of treatment of the criminal, apart from the failure of the police to catch him. Those who have experience of other ports in China, etc., do not hesitate to say that why Hongkong suffers so heavily is because we treat the convicted evil-doer too lightly—that is to say, when he is not proved guilty of the more heinous offences. When a man is merely an habitual bad character, a constant criminal of the minor type, we deal with him in a most considerate but entirely inadequate manner. And the opinion of such people is backed up by that of the better-class Chinese, who, it is certain,

do not at all appreciate the licence allowed to their unworthy fellow-countrymen any more than the respectable European residents admire the kindness shown to beachcombers who have been dumped in Hongkong from other ports.

The weakness of present methods is not a matter upon which argument need be expended. The consensus of opinion is very strong in the resident community, and it is only to be wondered at that it has not found more wide and public expression. But the manner in which improvement should be sought is open to discussion, and we must reserve its consideration for another occasion. In the meantime perhaps some of our readers may be inclined to give the benefit of their ideas on the subject.

THE SUPPRESSED RICKSHA STRIKE.

(Daily Press, 28th September.)

After having been compelled to criticise unfavourably the police force of this Colony during the past week, we are glad to take the opportunity of complimenting them, and the authorities generally, on the way in which an incipient strike among the local ricksha-coolies was dealt with on Saturday. Early in the afternoon of that day the entire body of ricksha-pullers in Hongkong went on strike, by instructions from their guild, owing apparently to certain penalties recently inflicted upon offending coolies, including, no doubt, one case reported in our Police Court columns on Tuesday, when a coolie was ordered to pay compensation to his fare, whom by faulty steering he had thrown from his ricksha and badly injured. The strike caused a great deal of inconvenience all over the Colony, people desiring to get to either end of the city having to walk or, in the case of natives, to crowd into the gharries which turned out in extra force to take advantage of the absence of other vehicles. The whole passenger service on the lower levels was disorganised, while the pullers noisily debated the situation among themselves. The authorities, however, very properly decided that the matter was not one to be dealt with in the usual mild way, and therefore, about 4 o'clock, the order was given to the strikers to return to work within three hours, under penalty of having all their licences cancelled. This exhibition of firmness soon brought the malcontents to their senses, and by 8 o'clock rickshas were procurable in most parts of the city; nor was any trouble experienced. Thus by a proper display of firmness a troublesome matter was brought to a satisfactory end. Such an affair does much to raise the local Government in the eyes of the community, and we trust that the lesson will not be lost, as it is only by prompt and vigorous action that a combined revolt among the more ignorant natives can be overcome. All classes of the community will join in congratulating the responsible authorities on the way in which they grappled with the trouble on Saturday, and will trust that the line of action is not merely an isolated break-away from the usual policy of submission by the Government to the noisiest section of the population.

Twenty-four Chinese employees were taken off the U. S. chartered transport *Kingsley* on the 21st ult. because the British Consul refused to be any longer responsible for them, as a transport calls, while on inter-island duty, in many ports where an illegal landing could easily be effected. The Chinese were taken in charge by the Immigration Bureau, and they will be returned to Hongkong at the earliest opportunity.

TRAMWAYS IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 30th September.)

The strike of the jinricksha-coolies on Saturday was, as we have already pointed out, promptly and firmly dealt with by the police; but the incident serves to suggest a possible danger in the future, against which the Colony would like to be insured. Just as competition is the life of trade, so a little healthy rivalry in the transport of passengers would prove at once a wholesome stimulus and a desirable restraint upon the propellers of the little man-power carriages. These vehicles have almost entirely driven the sedan chair off the roads on the lower levels, though the latter is really more comfortable and affords better protection against the weather. But time has become of importance here as elsewhere, and the little carriage can get over the ground in about half the period it takes the chair borne by coolies to make the journey. The jinricksha can, moreover, be pulled along by one man; the sedan chair has to be carried by two bearers. The former can, therefore, not only accomplish a journey in half the time a chair takes to do it, but it can make it for about half the fare. Small wonder that in the race the chair has fallen out, and left its competitor master of the situation on all the low levels. In their turn, however, the jinrickshas will soon have to meet competition, and will, as in the case of the chairs, have to be content to share the traffic with the electric tram-cars, which it is now intended to run in Victoria. Unlike the chairs, however, the jinrickshas will not have to give place entirely to the newcomer. They will still be used for short journeys and to places whither the trams do not run. It is probable, too, that with the natives they will remain a favourite mode of conveyance on account of the cheapness of the transport. But for distances, and for other reasons, such as shelter from sun and rain, the tram-cars will undoubtedly be popular and secure a large share of the traffic, possibly more even than we anticipate.

The tramways have been determined upon; the capital subscribed; the ordinance authorising their running has been passed by the Legislature; the rails have arrived and lie along the sides of the streets; and considerable sections of the line even have been laid down; but beyond this point, which was reached months ago, no progress appears possible. Why this unaccountable and on every account regrettable delay? The question has been asked before: we now repeat it with emphasis. We ask the Government—and we trust the independent Member of Council for the Chamber of Commerce will repeat it in that assembly—why is the work of laying the tramways suspended? who is responsible for it? and will not the executive see that the obstacle in the way—whatever it may be—is at once removed? We believe that it is some dispute between the Public Works Department and the company as to who is to bear the cost of relaying some portion of the road. A paltry matter like this ought not to be suffered to delay for months or years—the months soon grow into years in this paradise of procrastination—the institution of a system of locomotion so much needed to convey the working population to homes in the outskirts and thus solve the pregnant question of overcrowding. This is, it seems to us, a question for the Governor to take in hand and decide. If things come to an impasse in a commercial body, the *taipan* or director quickly solves the problem and decides it "off his own bat." It is for the Governor to

do the same in a case of this kind and not allow a great public convenience to be indefinitely delayed because some head of a Department has a disagreement with the promoters of the enterprise. There must be some reasonable and sensible settlement of the difficulty to be found, and it is not for the Government to allow a few dollars or any small concession with regard to the laying of the rails to block the way to the completion of the line.

EXPENDITURE ON PLAGUE.

(Daily Press, 3rd October.)

The discussion in Finance Committee at the Legislative Council meeting on Thursday last on the subject of plague expenses was one which should be read with interest. With the Hon. GERSHOM STEWART, all residents who care for the welfare of this Colony must be glad to hear the statement of the Principal Civil Medical Officer. The vote in the Estimates of \$487,522 for the Sanitary Department is certainly a large one, and the items of \$80,000 for scavenging and \$20,000 for coolie hire are calculated to cause surprise to those who have seen no explanation of them. Mr. STEWART's enquiry whether the plague not being with us now, any saving is effected, and whether the special coolies are kept employed, was a natural and, indeed, most desirable one. Dr. ATKINSON, in his reply, admitted that the figures seem large, but stated that the expenditure on plague for the first half of this year has been \$110,000 less than in the first half of 1902—when, however, there were 1,000 more cases of plague to be dealt with. The estimate for expenditure in 1904 is based on the number of plague cases this year. As to the increase of staff, this is the result of the advice of the sanitary experts, whose most important recommendation was that there should be a permanent plague staff, distinct from the ordinary staff of sanitary inspectors. Accordingly an organised plague staff has been established, the numbers of which are added to in a certain ratio to the number of plague cases, and decreased as the epidemic abates. The \$20,000 for coolie-hire was devoted to the extra coolies taken on to deal with plague cases as they occur, removing rubbish from infected houses, taking clothing to the disinfecting station, conveying water for cleansing purposes, etc. The number of these coolies decreases with the epidemic, and at present Dr. ATKINSON stated there are none employed, a fact which he thought shows that a due check is being kept on the expense. The Hon. F. H. MAX, in the chair, followed the Principal Civil Medical Officer's explanation with an expression of his opinion that a great saving has been effected since things have been authorised in the estimates instead of being charged upon open vote, a statement which it is welcome to hear. Further, he had himself called some time ago for a report showing exactly how the plague staff is employed, and this report is to be laid on the table. This, as Sir PAUL CHATER said, will be satisfactory; and criticism of the expenditure may well be delayed until the appearance of the report. It was expected, of course, that the calling in of expert opinion would lead to reforms involving the Colony in heavy expenses, and Hongkong residents are not disposed to grumble at this if real reforms are carried out. Only it is desirable to know that money is not being unnecessarily wasted.

THE STRAITS CURRENCY BILL.

(Daily Press, 28th September.)

Mr. HUTTENBACH continues his vigorous campaign against the Currency Restriction Ordinance now up for its third reading before the Legislative Council at Singapore. In the *Straits Times* of the 21st instant appears a long interview with him and also a short leading article on the substance of that interview. "The Hinterland with the Straits!" is the watchword for those who desire to modify the currency measure before it is too late. The many who believe in this watchword, Mr. HUTTENBACH said, have still time to organise, act, and save the situation. He has no faith in the Bill, and further contends that the scheme itself on which the measure is based exposes the mercantile firms of the Straits Settlements to tremendous losses, while incidentally, the passage of the Ordinance with its great restrictions may abolish the fame of Singapore as a free port, and cast its trade into the hands of rivals. It may lead to much oppression and private persecution. "When the possession of money becomes cousin germaine to a felony, and the informer is rewarded for his pains," Mr. HUTTENBACH asks, "will the native be always able to disprove a trumped-up case?" But his strongest point against the Bill is that he shows that it places a premium on smuggling. We quote a passage from the interview in the *Straits Times*:—"It is 'apparently believed that the persons or 'baggage of passengers will be the main 'vehicle of smuggling," said Mr. HUTTENBACH. "That presumption is erroneous. 'When the law goes into force, and there 'is a local premium of, say, 10 per cent. 'on any class of dollars, those dollars will 'begin to pour into the country. They 'will be shipped in small amounts, concealed in all sorts of packages, in paddy bags, in rice, in ginger-jars, in pickle-jars, 'in every possible vehicle of importation. 'Therefore, if smuggling is to be prevented 'it will be necessary to examine practically 'every cargo that discharges here. In 'other words, the freedom of this free port 'will become a myth, a memory. We 'must have an expensive Custom House 'staff, without securing any revenue from 'excise duties wherewith to defray the cost 'of the maintenance of such a department. 'The personnel of such an excise staff 'would have to be mainly European. 'Excise matters cannot be left to the 'charge of uninterested Asiatics. The 'temptations are too great, the customs of 'backsheesh and cumsha too deeply inherent, 'too universally prevalent. At sea and on 'land we must draw an impassable pale 'around our Settlements. How are we 'going to do it? As regards imports by 'sea by the regular liners, it will be possible 'to restrict them to a certain extent if the 'steamship companies co-operate with the 'authorities; but then it will be necessary 'to extend to the masters of steamships the 'right of searching baggage and cargo. 'Will the passenger and the trader tolerate 'the risks of such a search process? And 'what will become of the trade? On land 'it will be totally impossible to prevent 'smuggling."

Mr. HUTTENBACH goes on to describe how, if an outsider with a capital of \$10,000 desires to increase his hoard by 10 per cent. (assuming this to be the premium on imported coin), he has only to carry his \$10,000 to the conterminous frontiers of Kedah and Province Wellesley, and lay it down on the Kedah side of the line, about a

yard from British territory. He carries over \$24—\$25 being the limit in silver coin for import and export allowed by the Ordinance—and hands it to his confederate in Province Wellesley. He makes at least a hundred such trips per hour, netting a profit of \$2.50 per trip. Starting at 5.30 o'clock a.m., he can have his \$10,000 legally imported into the Straits Settlements by 9.30. "Each separate importation of \$24 could 'certainly not be stopped, and this being 'so it will be easy to play a safe game 'by providing for immediate exchange, 'either by merchandise or drafts. To prevent this, the Bill would have to be enlarged 'so as to include the aider and abettor. 'That kind of legislation once begun always 'leads further downwards, ending at last in 'contempt for, if not in arbitrary handling 'of the law."

Proceeding with his attack, Mr. HUTTENBACH says:—"The Bill is allegedly 'intended to regulate the importation of 'coins. In reality it endeavours to prohibit the importation so as to bring about 'a drain of the old currency through an 'extensive export of British and Mexican 'dollars—the whole ultimately to lead to 'the change of currency. But even if 'smuggling can be prevented, that drain 'will not take place. The object, the 'essence of the recommendations, will not 'be realised. Money-mills move independent 'and irrespective of the wills of Governments or Government Committees. Its 'current cannot be stopped, its course 'cannot be deviated by legislation irrespective of commercial laws. That is 'evidenced by the fact that our local dollar 'is already now at a substantial premium 'as compared with the value of silver, while 'the Commission's recommendations were 'based on our remaining at par until the 'process of demonetisation is begun. 'If a premium has been caused already, 'there is sure to be one when the measure is 'put into full effect. And the existence of a 'premium without smuggling is alone 'sufficient to prevent the drain, and thus 'the change of currency on which the 'whole scheme rests. Nobody, except 'perhaps the Government, will export 'dollars if he gets 10 or perhaps 20 per cent. less for them outside of the Colony 'than inside."

And so, for these and for other reasons, Mr. HUTTENBACH fears that the passage of the Ordinance may mark a turning-point in the prosperity of the Straits Settlements; and he therefore calls on those who believe in the cry "The Hinterland with the Straits!" to act at once. The *Straits Times*, endorsing at least part of Mr. HUTTENBACH's argument, calls too for the embracing of the hinterland in the proposed financial change: "We are here in the midst of a community 'using both British and Mexican dollars," says our contemporary. "Our hinterland; 'our source of supply, our source of wealth; 'uses those dollars. We cut off a few tens 'of millions of the existing and ever-increasing supply, and we fancy that we can 'isolate our own little \$30,000,000 and 'keep out the \$1,600,000,000 that circulate 'outside. Perhaps we can." But there is evidently much in that "perhaps."

Rumours were current in Osaka and Tokyo a fortnight ago that some steamers of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha had been chartered as transports by the Government. The news, the *Kobe Herald* says, has been confirmed, but the reason given is that the O. S. K. boats are to carry provisions and munitions of war for the garrisons in Formosa, the mail vessels of the island not being numerous or large enough to carry out the wishes of the military authorities within the necessary time.

RUSSIA ON THE SUNGARI.

(Daily Press, 3rd October.)

The *North-China Daily News* draws attention to the fact that Russia, in addition to her other schemes in Manchuria, is endeavouring to secure entire possession of the Sungari River, on the banks of which and its tributaries are built all the principal cities of Northern Manchuria, while its waters form one of the three main routes thence to Siberia. China has always refused to open the river, feeling that this would mean the opening of Manchuria. Since the China-Japan war, however, the beaten nation was not strong enough to prevent the construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway, or trading on the Sungari, unauthorised though the latter might be on paper. It was in 1895 that the first Russian steamer sailed up the river as far as Kirin, since when Russian boats have used the route freely. Russia will perhaps claim, the *Daily News* suggests, that the Aihun Treaty entitles her to navigate the Sungari, but that convention gave her no other rights than that of "inland navigation," allowed by China to all the Powers. Russia now proposes to establish landing-places along the river and to guard them with soldiers. But whatever right Russia may have to navigation is shared by the other Powers, whom Russia is now endeavouring to bar out altogether. Our Shanghai contemporary claims, and rightly claims, that if China agrees to the present proposal of Russia, other nations must be given similar rights on all other rivers in China. We call attention to the article in the *Daily News* because it points out the correct way in which the commercial Powers must meet Russia's extortions from China in the North, i.e., not by threatening war or by attempting land grabbing, but by insisting firmly on the opening up of closed areas. The question is one which largely affects Hongkong, for even within a little distance of the Colony lie great and fertile districts, of incalculable importance to our future development, but as yet entirely closed to our trade and shut off from the outer world.

RUSSIA IN CHINA AND COREA.

(Daily Press, 2nd October.)

The *North-China Daily News* publishes a Tokyo telegram of the 27th September, stating that the Japanese Progressists have issued a manifesto, which is signed by Count Okuma, insisting on "the necessity of restraining the Power which is encroaching on China and menacing Corea." The Japanese Government hardly needed this reminder, especially in view of the negotiations still apparently going on in St. Petersburg. But the issue of the manifesto shows what a keen watch is being kept in Japan on the situation in North-east Asia. No sooner does a pause occur than the Forward party in Japan takes the opportunity of striking the note of alarm again—a policy which must somewhat embarrass the Government in its treatment of an enormously difficult state of affairs. The embarrassment of the Japanese authorities, however, is nothing compared with that in which the Chinese have been for many months now. Prince Ching is still reported as timorous, as shiftless, and as pro-Russian as ever. His most intimate, according to a Japanese correspondent in Peking, is to ask Japan through her representative at the Chinese capital, to moderate her views in such a way that China may sign without delay the new agreement with Russia. This is a cool request, but Prince Ching is

said only to be waiting on the result of the St. Petersburg negotiations, meanwhile trying his best to gain time. He dares not, in fact, do anything else. Lacking backbone, he recognises that suppleness has its use. Such a thing as the honour and dignity of his own country does not appear to enter into his ideas, and the only consideration which keeps him from concluding a disgraceful compact with Russia is fear. Nor does the position of Corea's advisers seem very different. The present government of that nation, even though it ventured, not long ago, to give orders to pull down a line of illegally erected telegraph-poles on the Korean bank of the Yalu River, is obviously inclined to favour Russian enterprise at the expense of Japan. This is as true now as it was when the Tokyo correspondent of the *London Times* pointed it out two months ago, adding: "Japan will not suffer anything of that kind quietly. She knows now on what small foundations Russia builds her 'edifices of Empire, and she understands what effect a Russian Corea would have on her own tranquillity. Possibly Russia's doings in the Yalu valley may have been intended originally as a mere counter-irritant to the Manchurian complication, but either St. Petersburg or M. PAVLOFF seems to have forgotten how close Corea is to Japan in reality as well as in history." With reference to this, it hardly seems likely that Russia, in her proceedings at Yong-a-apho and elsewhere in Corea, was merely setting to work a counter-irritant to the Manchurian complication, as the correspondent suggests. There appears to be a good deal more determination behind her actions and a readiness to provoke Japanese popular hostility which is hardly consonant with the desire to make a simple feint. Until, however, it is possible to learn something about the St. Petersburg negotiations, if then it is unprofitable to speculate on Russia's exact policy. The most hopeful critics of the situation think that she has advanced in Corea in order to be able to draw back and, in return for this concession, to consolidate the position in Manchuria. But it is certainly unsafe to state this as a fact, seeing for how long a period Russia has been intriguing in Corea.

A PERSONAL ANNIVERSARY.

(Daily Press, 1st October.)

It is forty-six years ago to-day since the *Hongkong Daily Press* first made its appearance in this Colony, so that it may perhaps be permitted to us to refer back to our earliest issue on Thursday, the 1st October, 1857. The *Daily Press* was, when it commenced, a four-page paper of a demy folio size, devoted to "ships, commerce and colonies," containing (in its first number) a column and a half of editorial and notes, five columns of advertisements, while vessels expected and shipping in harbour filled the remaining page and two-thirds—each page containing three columns. It was printed at the Armenian Press in Wellington Street, and was edited from an office in the Queen's Road Dispensary. There are many points of interest, in comparison with modern times, which might be noted, but we must content ourselves with drawing attention to a few which are observable in our earliest issues.

Taking first a subject which is of consuming interest just now, that of exchange, we find that on the 5th October, 1857, the dollar stood thus:—Blank and first class paper on London at 6 months' sight, 4/11½; private bills at 6 months' sight,

5/-. The sovereign fetched \$4.25. Opium on the 1st October at Hongkong stood thus:—New Patna, \$800; Old, \$775; Benares, \$780; Malwa, \$900. To-day, with a dollar varying between 1/10 and 1/10½, the quotations stand:—New Patna, \$1,100; Old, 1,102½; Benares, \$1,000; Malwa, \$970 to \$1,030 (Old); and Persian (which did not appear 46 years ago), \$840 to \$850. We do not get the price of food and food-stuffs mentioned, but we see from an advertisement that eight "China Shops" in Queen's Road, near Peel Street, were valued at a yearly rental of \$24 a month only.

Turning to shipping, we find the Austrian Lloyd Steam Navigation Company advertising the following fares between Alexandria and Trieste, for the convenience of passengers travelling from China by the monthly and bi-monthly Indian steamers:—1st class, £16; 2nd class, £11; 3rd class, £7. The same company also announces that they have made arrangements in Trieste for telegraphic messages to London or any part of the Continent sent to them from China. The charge from Trieste to London was about 16 florins or 32s. per 20 words, and £1 per message. As to time of transit, to Hongkong from Bombay or Calcutta took about a month, from San Francisco about six weeks, while merchants' ships coming out from Northern Europe might take four to five months. The shipping in Hongkong Harbour on the 1st October, 1857, comprised 122 vessels, six of which (all British) were steamers, while the rest were described as barques, brigs, schooners, or ships. The companies mentioned as consignees, agents, etc., include the P. & O. S. N. Co., Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.; Messrs. Angier & Co., John Burd & Co., Dent & Co., Holliday, Wise & Co., Pustau & Co., Russell & Co., Siemens & Co., Wardley & Co., etc., etc.

Then, as for news items, we find in the second number an account of a murder at West Point on the 30th September, 1857, when a "mandarin spy" was killed by a crowd which included a relative of one of his victims. The *Daily Press* commented: "The question arises, what was this man doing in Hongkong? Doubtless on mandarin business—a hint to our police authorities not to relax the precautionary measures hitherto so successfully adopted for our safety and protection."

The following passage, from the third number, reads curiously:—"The Teetotum Fort in the Macao Passage, at present Admiral Seymour's advanced position, is garrisoned by part of the *Raleigh's* men. . . . In fact the Raleighs are turned into quiet Teetotums, but this time they have a craft which, we'll engage they will not lose."

In the fourth number we learn that "the experiment of circulating bank-notes among the Chinese is evidently going to be successful"; in the sixth, that the gunboats out here "are certainly not the craft that it was supposed they were," and that officers "have anything but a good billet"; and, more exciting still, in the ninth issue, that "H.E. Sir JOHN BOWRING has received from Calcutta a fine handsome carriage. It was a source of anxiety to us, lest Baron DE GROS should be lugged up the hill on that shocking concern that Lord ELGIN was bundled in on his landing." On the 12th October we find a discussion on the veracity of American newspapers—since then strikingly tested in the latest American development in the Philippines. There are passages from this article and from various notes which we should like to quote, many of which might well be written at the present day.

But we will content ourselves with a few sentences from an editorial written on the 23rd October, 1857. It ran as follows:—
 "The spirit of aggrandisement for which Russia has of late years been so notorious was never more fully developed than by her proceedings about the Amour River. . . . We ourselves happen to know that an overland communication exists from the North Pacific to St. Petersburg. The distance can be accomplished in 38 Days! and an incredible portion of the route is performed by Steam on the Amour. Our information runs that Passengers are readily taken, and that the entire passage money amounts to a sum short of the equivalent of \$400. We would recommend H.E. Sir JOHN BOWRING to go home this route not later than next summer. By lingering a few weeks on the way, he might acquire several languages, and have a Book of Nomadic Poetry all ready for the publisher by the time he arrives home."

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 1st inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.
 Colonel L. F. BROWN, Commanding the Troops.
 Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).
 Hon. Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, Kt. (Attorney-General).
 Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).
 Hon. BASIL R. H. TAYLOR (Harbour Master).
 Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).
 Hon. Dr. J. M. ATKINSON (Principal Civil Medical Officer).
 Hon. Sir C. P. CHATEL, C.M.G.
 Hon. C. W. DICKSON.
 Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.
 Hon. WEI A YUK.
 Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.
 Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.
 Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 50 to 53) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee. The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 9) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS submitted the following minutes of the Public Works Committee.

Disinfecting Station at Kowloon.

The Chairman (Hon. W. Chatham) laid before the Committee a plan for a disinfecting station providing similar accommodation to the existing one in the City of Victoria, with quarters for an Inspector attached, to be erected at Yaumati, and explained that the scheme was partly provided for in the current year's Estimates. The accommodation originally contemplated, however, was only a shed for the disinfectant itself and quarters for an Inspector, but the Sanitary Board had since asked for an additional two-storied shed to contain stores and house the coolies employed at the station, besides offices and other accommodation. These additions brought the estimated cost of the scheme up to \$27,000.

The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that tenders be called for the entire work and that, if necessary, a supplementary vote should be taken to meet this year's expenditure.

Convict Prison on Stonecutters' Island.

It was decided, in view of the absence of two members of the Committee, to defer the further

consideration of the proposal to establish a Convict Prison on Stonecutters' Island.

The Committee then adjourned.

Bacteriological Institute.

The Chairman explained that in consequence of the inability of the Public Works Department to undertake the work, the preparation of plans and estimates, &c., had been placed in the hands of Messrs Leigh & Orange architects. Preliminary plans had at first been prepared by them for a building in accordance with the Bacteriologist's ideas, the cost of which he estimated roughly at \$60,000. After communication with Singapore and Shanghai, amended plans on a reduced scale had been prepared. He now laid the plans before the Committee, the cost of the work being estimated by the architects at \$40,000. The site was in the upper portion of the Taipingshan resumed area adjoining Caine Lane.

It was unanimously agreed to recommend that the work be carried out in accordance with the amended plans and estimate.

Gunpowder Depot on Green Island.

Plans which had been prepared for the construction of a new Gunpowder Depot on Green Island, in substitution for the existing Depot on Stonecutters, were laid before the Committee. The estimated cost of the entire work, including quarters for the staff employed in connection with the Depot, the preparation of the site, &c., was \$107,000. The average revenue derived annually from the Depot during the past five years had amounted to over \$21,000.

After full discussion, it was unanimously agreed to recommend that the work be undertaken.

The Committee also recommended, in connection with the establishment of the Depot there, that restrictions be imposed with regard to landing on Green Island.

Establishment of a Convict Prison on Stonecutters' Island.

The proposal to construct a Convict Prison on Stonecutters, on the site to be rendered available by the transfer of the Gunpowder Depot to Green Island, was then considered.

The papers which were asked for by the Committee on the 24th July had been circulated to members.

The Chairman laid the plans before the Committee and explained that, though it was intended only to erect two blocks of cells, capable of accommodating 246 prisoners, in the first instance, the entire site available for the Prison would be enclosed with a high boundary wall, so that future blocks of cells could be added as occasion arose without interfering with the occupation of the Prison. The estimated cost of the work now proposed was \$236,000.

Before coming to a decision on this matter the Committee desire that an estimate be prepared and laid before them showing the probable annual working expenses of the proposed Prison together with the actual working expenses of the existing Gaol and whether any saving is anticipated in the latter item in the event of the new Prison being constructed. The Committee also desire to receive a comparative statement of the estimated working expenses if a Convict Prison of equal accommodation were constructed on a site on the Island of Hongkong, say, below Victoria Battery, instead of on Stonecutters.

The Committee then adjourned.

STERLING SALARIES SCHEME.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following correspondence in continuance of Sessional Paper No. 45 of 1902:—

Extract from the despatch of His Excellency Sir H. A. Blake to the Secretary of the State for the Colonies, No. 512, of the 15th November, 1902.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 318 of the 30th of last September and to refer you in reply to paragraph 6 of my despatch of the 11th December, 1901, in which I stated that the Sterling Salaries Scheme, forwarded under cover of that despatch, was designed to induce all officers which would in the ordinary course be held by Europeans appointed from home. In other words all officers entitled to draw exchange compensation.—I have, etc.

HENRY A. BLAKE.

Extract from the Secretary of State's despatch No. 16 of 16th January, 1903, to His Excellency Sir H. A. Blake.

It was not intended to make any such distinction in regard to the grant of Sterling Salaries, as is contemplated in your despatch No. 512 between officers of the Hongkong Service who are and those who are not entitled to exchange compensation. According to the principle laid down in the case of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States the salaries of all non-clerical posts which exceeded \$1,200 a year were to be included in the Sterling Scheme, and officers appointed after the beginning of August, 1901, to any such posts came under the Sterling Scheme, regardless of the question whether or not they would have been entitled, under the existing rules, in virtue of domicile or in other respects, to exchange compensation.—I have, etc.

ON SLOW.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY also laid on the table another paper on the same subject. He said—I would like to explain that whereas it was originally understood in the Colony that the sterling salaries scheme included only those officers who were in receipt of exchange compensation, it has been settled that it also includes non-clerical appointments the salaries of which exceed \$1,200 per annum. These appointments are therefore in the Estimates which are about to come under consideration of the Council. Hon. members will remember that some questions were put to me by an hon. member of this Council regarding the Crown Agent system, and part of one of the questions I was unable to answer. I now beg to lay on the table a despatch which gives the information I was unable to give at that time.

QUESTIONS.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK put the following questions to the Colonial Secretary:—

1. What was the nature of the enquiries which were made by the Government for the purpose of ascertaining how many vacant stores there were in the City of Victoria and in Kowloon in July last?
2. With reference to your answer to the 5th question which I put to you at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, is the contract which you referred to in that answer, a contract for training the nullah in question right down the northern face of the hill from top to bottom? What is the contract price for that work and what is the date which is fixed for completion of it?
3. Are any steps being taken for the improvement of the Detective Branch of the Police Force with a view to the surer detection of serious crimes?
4. What inducements are held out to Police officers for the study of the Chinese language and are such inducements smaller than they were formerly?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—

1. Each District Inspector was instructed by the Acting Medical Officer of Health to prepare a return showing what houses and floors within his district were vacant, and to give as nearly as possible the number of people these houses and floor could accommodate under the provisions of Ordinance No. 1 of 1903. The numbers given in my reply to the Honourable Member's former question on this subject were based on the Returns so furnished by the Inspectors.

2. The contract is for training the nullah from Kennedy Road upwards to its upper termination. The work is being done on a schedule of prices by measurement, as the nature of the ground rendered it practically impossible to prepare definite plans and quantities beforehand. No date of completion has been fixed in this case, but the work has begun and it is anticipated that it will be completed in 3 months.

3. The extra allowances granted to Chinese detectives has recently been increased from \$2 to \$5 per mensem. The question of increasing the Detective Staff is under consideration.

4. Money allowances of \$5, \$10 and \$15 a month are made to the European and of \$1, \$2, \$3 and \$5 a month to the Indian Police according to degree of proficiency. They attain in knowledge of Chinese. Knowledge of Chinese is also under the Police Regulations taken into account in considering promotions of both European and Indian Police.

Exchange compensation was prior to the grant of double exchange compensation paid on

such allowances drawn by Europeans. One of the conditions of the grant of double exchange compensation was that language allowances should not carry exchange compensation. Therefore exchange compensation is no longer drawn on these allowances.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK put the following questions to the Director of Public Works:—

1. Where is the site of the large flushing tank which you referred to in your answer to my first question to you at the last meeting of the Legislative Council? What is the contract price for such tank and what is the date which is fixed for its completion?
2. What materials are being used for mending the roads in—(a) the City of Victoria; and (b) the Kowloon Peninsula?
3. Who recommended the use of such materials, and for how long have such materials been in use? Is it not practicable to procure a more durable mixture for mending those roads? What Officers of the Public Works Department (giving their names and official designations) are responsible for the supervision of the mending of those roads?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied as follows:—

1. Adjoining Garden Road and in the rear of the Volunteer Headquarters. It is not desirable for obvious reasons, to make public the amounts of such contracts. 21st November, 1903.

2. (a). Granite macadam on the low-level roads and certain portions of the high-level roads. Concrete, composed of lime, cement, broken granite and red earth or sand, on the high-level roads generally. (b). Granite macadam on some of the principal roads and decomposed granite on the remainder. The use of the first mentioned material is being extended.

(3). I am unable to state who recommended the use of these materials. They have probably been used since the foundation of the Colony. A more durable material than the granite macadam, which is assumed to be the material more particularly referred to, was tried by the late Director of Public Works, Mr. Ormsby, namely gneiss or bluestone. In consequence of the complaints which arose regarding the unevenness of the roads so laid and the resulting noisiness of the traffic over them, the use of this material has been discontinued and much of it has been removed. I am not aware that any satisfactory paving for roads has yet been discovered, which would be suitable for local conditions and reasonably economical. Carefully selected granite macadam is in my opinion the best material available locally. The names and designations of officers engaged upon maintenance of roads are as follows:—Mr. H. P. Tooker, Executive Engineer; Mr. E. Dougherty, Overseer; Mr. A. H. Nimmo, Foreman; Messrs. Portaris, Lee Sing, Li Yuen Sing and U Pat, Assistant Foremen. There is at present a vacancy for an overseer of roads, which is being filled by the appointment of a qualified man obtained from England.

NEW MEMBER.

Hon. R. H. Basil Taylor, Harbour Master, took the oath as a member of the Council, in succession to Commander R. Murray Rumsey.

BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to define the boundaries of the city of Victoria.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE EXEMPTIONS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to exempt certain ships from the requirements of Section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance No. 36 of 1899.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill were as follows:—To relieve British shipowners trading between Hongkong and places on the rivers of the adjacent mainland from certain disadvantages under which they suffer in competition with others trading on such rivers by reason of the necessity at present imposed upon them of complying with the provisions of the 4th section of the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, 18-9, in respect of the number of certificated officers to be carried. This Ordinance is designed to place British owners in this respect upon a footing of greater

equality in competing with others for the trade of the rivers than at present exists.

ENTICING AWAY MARRIED WOMEN.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Magis rates Ordinance 890.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill were as follows:—To check the growth of a habit of enticing away married women from their husbands reported as becoming prevalent in the New Territories. As the civil remedy is in such cases, owing to the circumstances surrounding the persons affected, of no practical value it is proposed to make it an offence punishable on summary conviction to receive or harbour a woman married according to the law or custom of China who, without reasonable excuse, leaves the protection of her husband. The Bill declares cruelty or failure properly to maintain a wife to be reasonable excuse for her leaving her husband.

THE ESTIMATES FOR 1904.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Five million two hundred and thirty-eight thousand seven hundred and ninety-two dollars to the Public Service of the year 1904.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY then moved that the Bill be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council adjourned till Monday next at noon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.) presiding, and the consideration of the Estimates item by item was entered upon.

ECCLESIASTICAL GRANTS.

The proposed vote under the heading "Ecclesiastical" was \$2,400, made up as follows:—Grant for R.C. chaplain for gaol and hospital, \$600; grants for Protestant chaplains for gaol and hospital \$1,400; grant for burials, etc. \$400.

Hon. Mr. STEWART said he believed this work was always increasing. The number of sick people in hospital and prisoners in gaol got larger and larger each year, and there were more people to be attended to. If the various denominations would do this work it was better than getting it done in any other way; and he thought there was a general opinion among the unofficial members that this vote might without any injustice be increased.

Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER said he was of the same opinion. It was the view of the unofficial members that the vote should be doubled. They would ask the Chairman to bring the matter before the Governor as a recommendation from them.

The CHAIRMAN said that the vote was increased by \$200 as from 1st January of this year on the application of the Church Body.

Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER remarked that they were aware that it was increased in 1902 for 1903. There was no proposal in the Estimates to increase it further next year. The vote now stood at \$2,400. They asked that it should be doubled—\$4,800. They hoped the Chairman would bring it before His Excellency.

The CHAIRMAN said he certainly would do so, but he thought hon. members in support of this recommendation should furnish some figures showing the services rendered. His opinion was that if there were increased services rendered to the large number of patients in hospital and prisoners in gaol the Committee ought to have some facts before them. If they established a case he had no doubt His Excellency would bring it under the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies; an increase could not be made without his sanction.

Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER—We would like you to mention it.

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly.

The vote was passed.

PLAGUE EXPENSES.

Hon. Mr. STEWART, in making some remarks

upon the Sanitary Department vote of \$487,522 said they all admitted the necessity of precautions being taken against plague, but they could not help feeling regret at the enormous figures brought before them. There was a big staff provided for and he saw there were two items also of \$80,000 for scavenging and \$20,000 for coolies. He would like to ask whether, when the plague was not with us, there was any saving effected or how these plague coolies were kept employed, because he supposed that, as with every other sort of body that was not constantly exercised, the staff was apt to get a little bit rusty. This was the only opportunity the taxpayers had of looking at this account, and it was only fair that they should be quite clear in their minds that for the fairly liberal pay they gave to those men, good work was being done. It was a very sad fact to notice that the total Medical and Sanitary and charges came to remitting like \$800,000 or about 20 per cent. of one available income and they would be relieved if they got an assurance from the Chairman of the Sanitary Board that this money was being well spent.

Hon. Dr. ATKINS replied that the increase of the staff was largely due to the recommendation of the sanitary experts, which have been approved by the Government; and the most important of these recommendations was that a permanent plague staff should be appointed quite distinct from the ordinary staff of sanitary inspectors; and that the staff should be increased correspondingly to the increasing number of plague cases they had to deal with. This was approved of, and an organised trained staff to deal with these annually recurring epidemics of plague had been established. It would be evident to all hon. members that it was an improvement to have a trained staff at their disposal rather than to depend on men they might be able to pick up at hazard as the cases of plague increased in number. In this scheme it was positively laid down that there should be a certain number of officers employed, and that the number should be added to in a certain ratio to the number of cases. When there were not more than 20 cases a week the staff was at a certain strength; if the cases increased to not more than 50 the staff was increased correspondingly; and if there were not more than 80 a still further increase was made. As the epidemic declined so the number of those employed decreased in a corresponding manner; or, as the cases diminished in number so did the staff. The estimate for next year was based on the number of cases there were this year. With reference to the \$80,000 for scavenging the City and Hill district, referred to by the hon. member, that sum was paid to the contractor for removing refuse from the houses in Victoria and the outlying villages and for removing the street refuse also. He was paid so much a month and engaged the coolies himself. The other vote of \$20,000 for coolie hire was required for the coolies that had to be taken on in addition to the ordinary staff to deal with plague cases as they occurred. They removed rubbish from infected houses and took clothing to the disinfecting station and were employed for any other purpose that might be required, such as conveying water for cleansing purposes to the houses when water was scarce. As the epidemic decreased, these coolies were of course discharged. At present they had none such employed. He thought that went to show that a due check was being kept on the expense. Certainly it did seem high, but he might state that the expenditure for the first six months of this year on plague had been \$110,000 less than the expenditure for corresponding period last year, notwithstanding that they had 1,000 more cases of plague to deal with this year.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I am very glad to have heard this statement.

The CHAIRMAN thought the figures given by the Chairman of the Sanitary Board showed that, just what could be done with a little organisation. There was no doubt that since things had been authorised in the Estimates instead of being charged upon open vote a very great saving had been effected. Every endeavour would be made to see that the public got value for their money. The increasing expenditure in the Department had caused the Government a good deal of anxiety. Some time

ago he called for a report showing exactly how the plague staff was employed at the present time, and when he was furnished with it he would lay it on the table.

Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER—That will be satisfactory, sir.

The vote was approved.

THE RENTING OF "BEACONSFIELD."

Under the heading "Miscellaneous Services" there appeared the item, Rent for Government Offices ("Beaconsfield"), \$7,800.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked on what terms "Beaconsfield" had been taken?

The CHAIRMAN—Three years.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked if it was expected that the Sanitary Department would be able to move into the new building then?

The CHAIRMAN answered in the affirmative. They had taken "Beaconsfield" for three years with the option of renewal for another year, and they hoped before the expiration of that period to be in the new building above the Post Office.

The vote was passed.

GUNPOWDER DEPOT ON GREEN ISLAND.

For the provision of a gunpowder depot on Green Island a vote of \$15,000 appeared in the Estimates.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK said he understood that the depot was going to be removed from Stonecutters' to Green Island to make way for the Convict Prison.

The CHAIRMAN—That is the intention.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Has it been decided?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK remarked that \$15,000 seemed a small amount to expend out of the total estimated cost of \$107,000. How many years was it supposed to take to effect the transfer from Stonecutters' to Green Island?

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS said it was estimated that that amount would be sufficient for what was required to be done next year. Until the preliminaries had been got through in the way of getting the contracts fixed progress would be slow and the work would consist of excavation and reclamation operations, so that possibly that amount would be sufficient.

The CHAIRMAN further stated that it was the intention of the Government to put the prison there. As the hon. member would see from the report that had been put on the table the matter had been under the consideration of the Public Works Committee.

The vote passed.

THE NEW LAW COURTS.

\$60,000 was the sum proposed to be voted in respect of the new Law Courts.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked when the Courts were likely to be finished?

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS replied that the present contract was a three-years' one and did not include the internal finishings. He should say that the buildings would take four years to build. The principal factor in causing the building operations to occupy such a long time was the very large amount of stone work. The building was faced with stone externally from top to bottom.

The vote was approved.

WANCHAI MARKET EXTENSION.

There appeared in the Estimates a vote of \$2,000 for the Wanchai Market extension work, out of a total of \$7,000 estimated cost.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked why it had taken so long to expend this money. The estimated cost was \$7,000 and the estimated expenditure for this year was \$3,000, and for 1904 \$2,000. Apparently they were going to take three years to carry out this little extension costing only \$7,000.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS said that was not quite so. A contract for the work had been let for a sum which was much less than the estimate of \$7,000. The work would be finished about Christmas this year, but though it was finished the whole amount due to the contractor could not be paid till next year, because he had to maintain the place for a certain period after it had been finished, and a balance must be kept in hand until the period of maintenance expired.

The vote passed.

WESTERN MARKET.

On the proposed vote of \$20,000 in respect of the Western Market,

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked when the market was likely to be completed?

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS said he thought it would take about two years or eighteen months. There had already been expended some \$10,000 on the foundations for the market.

The vote passed.

THE NEW POST OFFICE.

A vote of \$40,000 for the new Post Office was proposed in the Estimates.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked when the Post Office was likely to be completed?

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS replied that tenders had been called for for the foundations, and the foundations would occupy twelve months. After that the remainder of the work would occupy from two and a half to three years.

The vote passed.

THE PRISON ON STONECUTTERS'.

In respect of the proposed new Convict Prison on Stonecutters, a vote of \$20,000 was proposed.

In reply to Hon. Mr. POLLOCK,

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS stated that the estimated cost of the work was \$236,000 and the accommodation was for 216 prisoners.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI said he thought the prison scheme was under consideration by the Public Works Committee. Suppose the Committee were against the scheme would this money not be spent, even although it was voted there?

The CHAIRMAN stated that they would have to build another prison somewhere. If it was not built on Stonecutters' the money would have to be spent in building it somewhere else.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI suggested that if the Committee were against the scheme the money would not be spent, for he understood it was a recognised thing that no public work was undertaken without the approval of the Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—No.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK said it seemed a pity that the votes should have to come on before the Committee had dealt with the matter. Supposing Government decided not to build the prison on Stonecutters' then the gunpowder depot would not be removed, he presumed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—Then you save money.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK repeated that it was a pity that the Committee could not report before these matters were brought before the Finance Committee.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the gunpowder depot had to be reconstructed in any case. Objections had been raised to it already on account of its insecurity against shell fire. The gunpowder depot really did not depend upon the prison on Stonecutters'. These matters were referred to the Public Works Committee some time ago, and they had to secure a good deal of information before they could report. But that really did not affect these items.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI explained that the reason he raised the question was that they might be committing themselves, by voting that money, to the prison on Stonecutters'.

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly not; it is just put in to identify it.

The vote was agreed to.

SCHOOL AT YAUMATI.

There appeared in the Estimates an item School at Yaumati; estimated cost, \$21,500; estimated expenditure next year, \$15,000.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked what school this was?

The CHAIRMAN stated that when Mr. Ho Tung presented the Kowloon School to Government and agreed to make it a school for European children only instead a mixed school as he originally intended, the Government promised to provide a school for Chinese children at Yaumati. This was the school.

The vote was passed.

RECONSTRUCTION OF GULLIES.

\$20,000 was proposed to be voted for reconstruction of gullies.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked if that would complete the reconstruction of gullies?

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS said he thought the work would be completed well within the estimates. Possibly that sum might be found sufficient to complete the work.

The vote agreed to.

NEW TERRITORY SURVEY.

Referring to a proposed vote of \$6,000 in respect of the New Territory survey.

Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER asked what was the scale of the maps?

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS replied that the scale of the small map was one inch to the mile. Another map was being prepared with a scale of two inches. For the cadastral maps, 16 inches, 32 inches and in some cases 64 inches to the mile were used.

The vote was agreed to.

PRAYA EAST RECLAMATION.

In respect of the Praya East Reclamation a vote of \$10,000 was proposed.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked why the work was not being proceeded with?

The CHAIRMAN stated that it was owing to the great deal of trouble they had had in fixing the boundaries of the various departments interested.

The vote approved.

COMPENSATION.

Under the heading "Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1 of 1903," it was proposed to vote \$64,000 for compensation.

Hon. Mr. STEWART asked what this was paid for?

The CHAIRMAN said it was paid in cases for instance, where they took away part of a house to form a back lane, or where a man lost a storey. This was a low estimate. As time went on and more houses came down they would have to pay a great deal more.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—How is the compensation arrived at?

The CHAIRMAN—There is a Board of Arbitration. It is all in the Ordinance.

The vote was passed.

Under the same heading there was an item of \$350,000 for insanitary property resumptions.

Hon. Mr. STEWART wanted to know if this was the same as the previous vote.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that it was a different thing altogether. In this work they had been carrying out the recommendations of Professor Simpson.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS added that in the event of private negotiations falling through with the owner, the Crown Land Resumption Ordinance provided for a reference to arbitrators, so that where negotiations failed recourse could still be had to this clause.

Hon. Mr. STEWART asked how the amount to be paid as compensation was arrived at. If it was calculated on the rent, the owner might make a very good thing out of overcrowded property.

The CHAIRMAN replied that there were special measures made for the valuation of insanitary property; if property was insanitary certain deductions were made.

The vote was agreed to.

THE NEW RIFLE RANGES.

There was in the Estimates an item proposing to devote \$4,000 for the construction of butts at the new rifle range at Kowloon, \$5,000 for the diversion of roads, and \$20,000 for the resumption of private property.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK desired some information on this item.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the vote referred to the construction of new rifle ranges behind Kowloon City to replace the rifle ranges on what was going to be the King's Park. They had to provide rifle ranges in substitution for those that are now situated on the site of the King's Park. As soon as the new butts were constructed the Park would be thrown open to the public. The diversion of the road was in connection with the same scheme.

The vote carried.

KOWLOON WATERWORKS.

For the Kowloon Waterworks Gravitation Scheme it was proposed to devote \$250,000.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked when the scheme was likely to be completed?

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS thought it would be completed in about a couple of years from now. A great deal of work in connection with the scheme was already in hand.

The vote agreed to.

THE TYTAMUK SCHEME.

\$100,000 was proposed to be voted in respect of the Tytamuk Scheme.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked when this scheme was likely to be completed?

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS was unable to give any definite date. He hoped substantial progress would be made with much of the work next year, but it was impossible at this stage to give positively any date as to when it would probably be completed.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked how far the scheme had got at present?

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS said the site for the principal dam had not yet been determined. The site for a minor dam had been decided upon and work would be undertaken at a very early date; but the site of the main dam had not yet been decided upon on account of the unfavourable results of the operations already carried out.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—The results of the borings?

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS—Yes.

The vote was agreed to.

THE GAGE STREET MURDER.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$2,500 in aid of the vote Police, Other Charges, for the following items:—

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| (1) Oil, Wick and Gas for Bar racks | \$ 1,000 |
| (2) Photography | 500 |
| (3) Secret Service | 1,000 |

Total... \$ 2,500

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked if the item appearing as "Secret Service" was connected with the Detective Department?

The CHAIRMAN said no; it referred to a certain case which was under investigation this year and which resulted in the capital sentence for the murder of a certain Chinese Reformer in Gage Street some years ago.

The recommendation was approved.

GAOL EXPENSES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$3,900 in aid of the vote Gaol, Other Charges, for the following items:—

- | | |
|---|----------|
| (1) Provisions for Prisoners | \$ 1,800 |
| (2) Lighting the Gaol and Warders' Quarters | 600 |
| (3) Fuel and Soap | 800 |
| (4) Materials for Remunerative Industry | 700 |

Total, \$ 3,900

The CHAIRMAN explained that these items were due to the increased number of prisoners and also to the opening of a subsidiary prison owing to the increased numbers.

Hon. Mr. HO KAI—Is it occupied?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes; it has been for some time.

Vote agreed to.

WEATHER SIGNALS AND TYPHOONS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$2,150 in aid of the vote Public Works Extraordinary, to meet cost of the following:—

- | | |
|--|----------|
| Mast for weather flag signals for the information of shipmasters | \$ 1,900 |
| For fixing the mast and supplying lookout and ball | 520 |

Total... \$2,510

The CHAIRMAN stated that this mast was for a system of weather signals by flags, which he mentioned at a recent meeting of the Committee.

Colonel BROWN—Where is the mast to be placed?

The CHAIRMAN—Close to the signal station, on Blackhead's Hill.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK expressed the opinion that the present red drum and cone system worked very badly and was most unsatisfactory. All throughout the previous day and Tuesday there was a red south cone hoisted with the result that most of the junks and native craft went away to the refuge at Causeway Bay. It would be a very good thing if the red signal was abolished; it was quite a sufficient warning if the signal was hoisted when a typhoon was within 300 miles of the Colony.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Council was voting this money because the Chamber of Commerce said the signals were of sufficient; they wanted a far more elaborate system. The red signal was not for the information of harbour boats but of the masters of vessels about to leave port. In many cases the junk people disregarded the signals altogether. Probably on the day referred to they had thought the weather looked dirty. The red signal did not indicate a typhoon near at hand but more than 300 miles off.

The COLONIAL TREASURER held that the Government could not be blamed for over-caution on the part of the junk owners.

The CHAIRMAN—No; the complaint generally is that we do not give them sufficient information.

The vote was agreed to.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,794.17 in aid of the vote Registrar-General's Department, Other Charges, to meet expenses in connection with the copying of Land Registers in Nantau, as follows:—

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Writer's wages | \$1,315.50 |
| 2. Steam Launch bill | 64.00 |
| 3. Shroff's voucher for Incidentals | 10.37 |
| 4. Chan Tsan's | 31.95 |
| 5. Mr. Liu Tsz Peng's salary | 399.35 |
| 6. Mr. Clement's expenses | 63.00 |

Total, \$1,794.17

The vote was passed.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 1st inst., in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (President) presided and there were also present Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Dr. W. W. Pearce, Medical Officer of Health; Dr. Burnett, Assistant Medical Officer; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

The PRESIDENT—From information received by the Government it appears that there is a serious outbreak of plague at Newchwang, and from enquiries we ascertained that many ships arrive in this port direct from Newchwang, at least without touching at Shanghai; many come by Chefoo. Shanghai has already been declared an infected port, so that ships arriving here from Shanghai are medically inspected. I think we ought to take the same precautionary measure with regard to Newchwang.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—What figures have you got, sir?

The PRESIDENT—In the *Daily Press* of the 28th September it was stated that "at Newchwang over 500 cases have been reported." I asked the Government, on the strength of that, to telegraph to Newchwang for particulars, and the answer the Colonial Secretary received from the Consul was, "Serious epidemic of plague broken out." No figures are given.

Colonel WEBB—What time does it take to come down from Newchwang?

The PRESIDENT—I think six days. At any rate it is within the incubation period of the disease.

There being no further remarks offered.

The PRESIDENT moved that the Government be recommended to declare Newchwang an infected port.

Colonel WEBB seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

Those who have visited Penang will be interested to learn that at a meeting of the Directors of the Penang Hill Railway held on the 21st September, Mr. Bromhead Matthews presiding, the tender of Mr. C. E. Paterson of the Native States, constructing engines, was finally accepted, and the work will be taken in hand almost immediately. The present contract is likely to take about nine months to complete, and when it is finished it will place the hills within easy access to the inhabitants of Penang.

The Japanese steamer *Chisima Maru* (which, when running as the *Skramstad* under the Norwegian flag, sank in the triple collision in Hongkong Harbour on the 20th November, 1901, in which the *Perla* and *Taicheong* were also involved), came to grief a second time on the 21st ult., being run into by the N.O.L. s.s. *Seydlitz*, badly damaged on the starboard bow, and in consequence beached on the China mainland about two miles from the Kiutoan lightship. The *Chisima Maru* was carrying 1,500 tons of Japanese coal to consignees in Shanghai. The coal was being rapidly discharged, by last advice, and it is expected that the vessel will then be floated without difficulty. A court of enquiry into the collision will sit in Japan.

RICKSHA COOLIES' STRIKE.

On the 26th ult. 1,500 ricksha-coolies let the shafts of their vehicles drop to the ground and went on strike. All over the city the movement seemed to come to a head simultaneously, which fact points to the strike having been instigated by the guild that looks after the interests of these people. In the side-channels of Queen's Road, in bye-streets and lanes—everywhere idle rickshas were to be seen. Whatever the object of the strikers may have been, they could not have chosen a more favourable time than Saturday afternoon to show what they could do in the way of inconveniencing the public by stopping the traffic. On Saturdays at this season of the year there is always a large demand for these handy vehicles by those desirous of getting away from the City to the more salubrious neighbourhood of the Happy Valley and Shaukiwan Road; and as it happened there was a Polo Gymkhana on at Causeway Bay to make the demand for rickshas even greater than the normal.

It was therefore little wonder that deep chagrin was felt and expressed on every side when intending travellers found that rickshas were not to be had for love or money and that they had no alternative but to abandon their journey or have recourse to "Shanks's mare." Many people tried to press into service the coolies who were standing by the idle rickshas, but such methods only led to the pullers showing a clean pair of heels as they dived into the recesses of the Chinese alleyways. At various points along Queen's Road the strikers assembled in strength and excitedly and with much gesticulation discussed their grievances real or supposed. But resume work they would not. The first signs of the strike began to be visible about two o'clock, and before three o'clock the strike had become general all over the town.

Various reasons for the strike were given. It was stated, for instance, that the coolies had had a disagreement with the owners of the rickshas with regard to the rate of pay. Then it was reported that two sections of the coolies had had a fight that led to the cessation of traffic. But neither of these rumours appears to have been true. The owners state that the coolies are not demanding more money. The real reason seems to be that the coolies had taken this means to protest against the increasing strictness with which the police have been enforcing the street regulations. Of late there have been numerous prosecutions of ricksha-coolies for breaking the rules of the road and causing general obstruction, refusing to abide at the recognised stances, and so on. That it was high time for stricter regulations to be enforced no one will deny. The congested condition of certain parts of the streets in the Central district through rickshas being allowed to stand in the side-channels had been a crying grievance for months past.

It was because of the police enforcing the regulations relating to traffic, therefore, that the coolies went on strike. When the police heard of the state of matters orders were given for the numbers of all the rickshas lying idle along the streets to be taken, the ricksha-owners were summoned to the Central Station, and later all the strikers were sent for to attend at the same place. On their arrival they were confronted by the Deputy Captain of Police, the Acting Registrar-General and the Inspector of Rickshas, and were told that they would be allowed three hours in which to resume work, failing which they would forfeit their licences. This was about four o'clock. The warning had an unmistakable effect on the recalcitrant pullers, for before the three hours' grace had elapsed rickshas were fairly numerous and as the evening drew on the street traffic resumed its customary aspect. Fortunately the strike was unattended by any riot or disturbance.

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody good." While the ricksha-pullers turned up their noses at offers previously unheard of and thereby lost many dollars, the chair-bearers reaped a rich harvest. They descended in haste from the upper heights and found more demand for their services than they were able to cope with. On the low levels there could be seen the unwonted spectacle of four chairs abreast passing along the streets. Then the bicycle

shops benefited: so great was the run upon their stock that hardly a wheel that could bear the weight of a rider but was chartered for the afternoon. Gharries too emerged in their dozens from the mysterious recesses of Wanchai and East Point, bearing evidence of years of inglorious occupation as chicken-roosts; and the jades that drew these antiquated stages were in keeping with their load.

ASSAULT AND INTIMIDATION BY STRIKERS.

As a sequel to the strike of ricksha-pullers on Saturday, a coolie was prosecuted at the Magistracy last week by Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, Superintendent of Police, with intimidating and assaulting a coolie not on strike. Evidence was led that a Chinese policeman in plain clothes saw defendant throwing stones at a ricksha-coolie, and on arresting the stone-thrower found in his hand more missiles. Mr. Hallifax stated that when the strike was reported at the Central, plain-clothes men were sent out to collect information. On the charge of intimidation the defendant received two months' hard labour, and for the assault \$5 or 14 days—compensation for the damage done to the ricksha to be paid out of the fine. His Worship said that this was more serious than a case of ordinary assault, because it prevented a man following his lawful occupation.

For the same offences another coolie was sentenced to three months' hard labour for assault and threatening, and \$5 or 14 days for damaging a ricksha.

AN ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Port Arthur, Aug. 31st (Sept. 13)

The *Novi Krai*, which has always advocated an understanding between Russia and England, publishes with great satisfaction an account of the debate which took place in the British House of Commons towards the end of June last on the Far Eastern question. It may be remembered that in that debate Sir Edward Grey spoke in favour of England coming to some understanding with Russia in regard to China. The Port Arthur paper also devotes to the subject a leading article in which it speaks as follows:—

"A whole series of articles has been written in the *Novi Krai* on the theoretical foundations for a *rapprochement* between Russia and England for the joint action of these great Powers in the Far East for the good of the international politics of the world. The arguments which were adduced by us in support of this view must, it seems to us, have been sufficiently cogent to persuade the readers of the *Novi Krai* that our scheme was as practicable as it was theoretically sound. In order to make a thorough study of the suitability of the soil for the reception of this doctrine among the ruling classes in England as well as in the Press and among the Public, our regular collaborator, Mr. E. S. Levitoff, was recently despatched specially to London.

"From the time we first cast in the field of international politics the seed of this new idea, no small interval has elapsed, in the course of which there have taken place in the life of European nations events which have necessarily had a modifying influence on the mutual relations of the Powers. The principal of these events are the undoubted facts of a *rapprochement* between our ally France and England; of the appearance of symptoms which would seem to indicate that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance has reached the beginning of the end; of the most successful individual action of Germany in the Near East; of the danger with which the American Trusts threaten England; and, to crown all, of the revolution in the Balkan Peninsula. These circumstances have prepared the field for a *rapprochement* between Russia and England, and have thus prevented the seed which we have sown from perishing by the roadside.

"From the account we reproduce in our *Colonial Review* to-day of the last sitting of the English Parliament, the readers of the

Novi Krai may be convinced that the question of an Anglo-Russian *rapprochement*, formerly existing only in theory, is now entering the domain of practical politics.

"From the high Russian Throne resounded on the 30th of July last an eloquent declaration in which the overwhelming importance of the political question in the Far East, in contradistinction to political questions in the Near East and the West, was affirmed.

"It would at first sight have seemed to us that such an authoritative statement on this question should have at once given the keynote to Russian official circles, to the Russian Press, and to the Russian public in general, but, to our great regret, the Press of Russia proper has up to the present done nothing but divert the attention of the public to events in the Balkan Peninsula, and has thus lessened their interest in the Far East.

"This explains, in our opinion, the astonishing circumstance that the debate which took place in the British Parliament in London in the beginning of July last, a translated account of which we reproduce elsewhere in the *Novi Krai* to-day, is not even so much as alluded to either in special telegrams or in leading articles by the great newspapers of St. Petersburg. We console ourselves, however, with the reflection that now that the articles in the *Novi Krai* are cited in translations appearing in the foreign Colonial Press, our sincere welcome in this leading article of the suggestion regarding an Anglo-Russian arrangement which was made in the debate in question, may be taken up by the English Press, and that this good seed may not be allowed to die.

"With reference to what the English leaders say, we are disposed to confess that Sir Edward Grey was right when he said that in its action on the Far East 'I am not sure that Russia pursues a settled policy.' This holds good only of our past actions in the Far East, for we must candidly confess that in the past our policy in this part of the world was, as Sir Edward Grey observes, not 'a settled policy.' That time, however, is now gone for ever. With the appointment of a Viceroy over the Russian Far East, all our problems here will be resolved, but our demands will become clearly defined and our resolution to have those demands granted immovable. Under these circumstances the two great Powers, Russia and England, can easily join hands 'or joint work in the Far East, and for the defining of their respective spheres of influence within the limits of reasonableness and justice. At the same time the interests of the friends of these two Powers will not be overlooked."

S. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong S. Andrew's Society was held at 5.30 p.m. on the 29th ult. in the City Hall. It was agreed at the commencement of the meeting not to allow a full report of the meeting to be published. The principal proceedings were the passing of the report, given below, and the election of officers and committee.

The election resulted as follows:—President, Hon. G. W. F. Playfair; Vice-president, Dr. Rennie; Committee, Mr. J. R. Brazier, Hon. C. W. Dickson, Mr. J. R. M. Smith, Hon. Gershom Stewart, Mr. W. Wilson, Mr. N. S. Brown (Hon. Sec.), and Mr. J. Stodart (Hon. Treasurer).

It was also decided to have a S. Andrew's Ball on the 30th November, the details being left to the Committee.

The report is as follows:—

During the year several applications for assistance from the charitable fund were received, and, after full investigation, grants in aid were given. These amounted to \$548.75 as against \$674.75 the previous year. Situations were found for several applicants. The balance at the credit of the Society now stands at \$2,548.50 as against \$2,320.85 last year. Thirty-two members have joined the Society during the year. S. Andrew's Day 1902 was celebrated by a Ball held in the City Hall, which, both socially and financially, was a success. The Hon. R. Shewan, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. William Kidd resigned their places on the Committee on their departure from the Colony. During the year, the Hon. C. W. Dickson joined the Committee. Mr. David

Wood, the Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Andrew Forbes, the Hon. Treasurer, both left the Colony last spring on holiday leave, and were replaced respectively by Mr. N. S. Brown and Mr. J. Stodart, to both of whom the thanks of members are due. The Committee are indebted to Mr. A. R. Lowe for kindly auditing the accounts. The Committee deeply regret to have to record the death of Mr. J. Maclehoose, a very old member of the Society.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

A curious creeper, which has occasioned considerable interest in the gardens from time to time, is now in flower in the nursery near the office. Another specimen with a few buds on it is growing, trained on a fence, at the west end of the plant houses in the old garden. The name of the plant is *Aristolochia gigas* (variety *Sturterantii*), and it is a native of Guatemala. It is sometimes known as the pelican plant from the resemblance of the flowers when in bud to that bird. The species was introduced into England about 60 years ago, but had been lost to cultivation for many years until it was re-introduced to Kew in 1888. It flowered there in 1891 and attracted much attention at the time. The corolla of the Kew plant measured 17 inches across and 5 ft. in length, 3 ft. of which was narrowed into a tail. Some of the first flowers on the plants in the gardens here attained nearly a similar size. The colour of the flowers is creamy yellow thickly mottled with dark purple. It is a most evil-smelling plant, but flies are attracted to it in large numbers. In one flower which was opened we found about a hundred blow-flies and three earwigs, which would have been, in the ordinary course of events, liberated after pollination.

A day or two ago we determined an interesting orchid, *Cymbidium dayanum*, an addition to the flora of China, but which had hitherto been recorded from Assam and Sikkim only. The plant is growing in a pot in the No. 2 house, and was, with another species, received from Hainan in 1893 from a native collector who had been sent down there to make a collection of the plants of the island. The flowers are produced in decurved racemes, 14 to 15 flowers to a raceme. The individual flowers are 2 inches across, and the sepals and petals are greyish white, with a blood-red central streak which reaches almost to the apex. The history of the species is of much interest. It was founded in 1869 by the late Professor Reichenbach, a great authority on orchids, on a plant from Assam sent to him by a Mr. Day, who was a large orchid-grower in England. In the *Flora of British India*, published in 1890, Sir Joseph Hooker reduces it to a variety of *Cymbidium eburneum*, but adds a note to the effect that he had not seen the plant. In 1895 it is described as a new species in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, under the name of *Cymbidium simonsianum*, by King and Pontling. (Sir George King was at that time Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta.) It is also described and figured under the latter name in the *Botanical Magazine* for last year, where it is stated that the plant was bought as *Cymbidium dayanum* for the Royal Gardens, Kew, from a firm of London nurserymen, who stated it had been received from Japan with other orchids. When the index for the *Botanical Magazine* was made up, a footnote was added that the plant had then been determined by Mr. Rolfe, the best-known living authority on orchids, as *Cymbidium dayanum*. It will be interesting to know whether the plant is really a native of Japan or not.

The total rainfall for the month is 21.95 inches.

The transit of international postal correspondence between Europe and the Far East by the trans-Siberian and trans-Manchurian Railway was to commence on the 1st inst. The *Echo de Chine* states that the French postal administration at Shanghai has decided to follow the example of the German post office, and that dating from the 1st correspondence directed by the trans-Siberian Railway will be received for despatch by that route at the French post-offices in Shanghai and the outports.

ARMS FOR KWANGSI.

According to the *N.-C. Daily News*, it is reported from reliable sources in Canton mandarin circles that, having nearly exhausted all the modern arms and ammunition available in the Canton arsenals and ordnance godowns of that province, as well as drawn freely upon the arsenals in Shanghai, Nanking, and Wuchang, the total number in rifles from the above places being nearly 164,000, with sufficient ammunition amounting to 600 cartridges for each rifle, Viceroy Shum has lately further applied to the high authorities of Foochow for more arms and ammunition. In compliance with H.E.'s request twenty-five large sea-going cargo-junks were despatched from Foochow about ten days ago (the *N.-C. Daily News* wrote on the 22nd inst.) for the South, laden with no less than 12,000 rifles and a considerable amount of ammunition. The junks were escorted by a couple of Government cruisers. It is stated that two more instalments comprising 30,000 more rifles are to follow the first. This will enable Viceroy Shum to have within a short time no less than 280,000 good serviceable rifles of modern make available for use in Kwangsi province, and in this number are included also the modern arms of precision already in Kwangsi when H.E. arrived there nearly three months ago. Besides these small arms, Viceroy Shum, who is an enthusiastic admirer of rapid-fire field guns, has at the present moment no less than seventy-six of them of various calibres, ranging from fifteen pounders to forty-five pounders of the Armstrong type, whilst among this number are also twenty-nine Krupp guns of modern make. All of these field-pieces are well provided with smokeless powder, shell case shot, and shrapnels. Batteries have been formed and the gunners are being constantly drilled and exercised by experienced instructors. It is stated that, not counting a reserve of 40,000 men, the Viceroy anticipates to be able to put in the field 16,000 well-armed well-drilled and well-paid troops by the beginning of next spring.

HONGKONG'S ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following statement of the Colony's assets and liabilities on the 31st July, 1903, appears in the *Gazette*:—

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Advances, &c.	.....	41,723.04	
Subsidiary coins	.....	1,310,000.00	
Total assets	.....	\$1,341,723.04	
Balance	.....	998,529.26	
Total	.....	\$2,340,252.30	
LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Deposits not available	.....	435,144.48	
Crown agents' drafts	.....	1,000,000.00	
Money order remittances	.....	16,089.50	
Balance overdrawn, bank	.....	1,708,423.82	
Balance overdrawn, Crown agents	.....	30,594.70	
Total	.....	\$2,340,252.30	
Subsidiary coins in transit		\$350,000	
Estimate of silver at mint		664,474	
Total	.....	\$1,014,474	

CHINA, RUSSIA, AND JAPAN.

The *N.-C. Daily News* correspondent at Peking telegraphed under date 25th September:—

Prince Ching and the Ministers of the Grand Council and the Waiwupu are agreed on conceding all the new demands made by Russia, except the two articles relating to the establishment of landing-places on the river Sungari, and the line of military stations between Blagovestchensk and Tsitsihar. Viceroy Chang Chih-tung and Yuan Shi-kai, seeing that there is nothing else to be done, have withdrawn their objections.

The Japanese Minister, Mr. Uchida, has strongly objected, his latest protest being to the effect that, in case China secretly decides to concede any points which have not received Japan's previous assent, Japan will take her own course of action.

Prince Ching is in an awkward position between Russia's demands and Japan's objections. His visit to Mr. Conger, the U.S. Minister, last Tuesday had for its object to

beg Mr. Conger's friendly interference to soften the Japanese objections, which the American Minister declined to do, considering the task a hopeless one. All the Chinese Government can do is to await the progress and development of the negotiations that are going on at St. Petersburg between Japan and Russia.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 25th September.

THE VICEROY'S RETURN.

Six large launches have been sent up to Wuchow to bring the Viceroy and his suite back to Canton, where he should be in a week at most, unless, indeed, the rumour be true that, owing to the death of Fung and the lack of experience of Cheung, he will be compelled to stay longer in Kwangsi.

Two men at least are awaiting his return with unmixed feelings of dread. One of these is Li Ka Chauk, of whom a great deal has been heard in Hongkong. Less known is the fate of the ex-Namhoi magistrate. Some time ago I referred to his appointment to a taotai-ship in Kiangsu after his degradation here as a peculiarly flagrant case of failure of justice. This promotion bore the aspect of a successful move on the part of the Viceroy's enemies, the first, as many thought, of a series which would culminate in his removal. But Shum is not to be treated so lightly. He has given the strictest orders that the ex-Namhoi should be kept under guard, and on his return the unpopular official will be very severely punished. It is not unlikely that he will be beheaded; much correspondence has passed between the Viceroy and Peking over this affair. It is whispered that Prince Ching has espoused the cause of the Namhoi, but the general belief is that Shum, with the influence of the Empress-Dowager behind him, will win the day. Marshal Su's escape from death should, however, be borne in mind. "Auri sacra fames."

MILITARY TRAINING.

The meeting at Whampoa Military College has come to an end, after a week's duration. The students had long complained of bad food, bad teaching, and bad lodging. They have now consented to return to work, having been met half-way by their learned professors on two points—not, however, I should imagine, on the second. The academy will continue to send out brilliant young recruits!

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 27th September.

THE M.A. EXAMINATION.

The M. A. examination began yesterday—the 8th day of the 8th moon in—Canton, as in the other provincial capitals. The number of candidates is above the average this year 13,212 out of the 14,000 cells at the well-known examination-hall being occupied. Only natives of Canton and of the province of Kwangtung are allowed to offer themselves. The vacancies number about eighty, of which three are open to Bannermen and Manchus. The whole affair is conducted with great pomp and ceremony. The leading officials attend on different days, and occupy special halls, where they sit in state. The place undergoes a thorough cleaning before the examination, and broken windows are mended, floors repaired, and ovens renewed, for the large staff of officials has to be fed during the nine days of the examination. The candidates have to take their own food with them. They remain in the "schools" for three days, and are then allowed to return to their homes for a night's rest. This is repeated twice, so that nine full days have to be spent in the precincts.

This year the subject for the first three days is Foreign History during the 18th and 19th centuries of the Christian era; for the second period, Chinese History—both internal and in connection with foreign states; and lastly, the Chinese classics. For the first subject it should be mentioned that any gentleman taking books in with him will not be punished, and the importance of this part of the examination is thus neutralised.

As usual in China, there is a vast number of officials and their hangers on present. First of all is the Chief Examiner, who has one assistant

and thirteen associates. Then there is the Inspector (head of the invigilating branch) and his deputy, the Superior Proctor, and the Comptrollers of the Inner and Outer Precincts. Another branch includes six Receivers of the Essay, six Sealers, and six Transcribers, and a larger number of Comparers and Stampers. Altogether it will be seen that the examination is a great affair. The strain on the candidates, who live for nine days in small cells in the midst of dirt and evil odours, must be terrible, and the relief when all is over correspondingly great. A sweep-stake is held annually on the names of successful candidates. If too many men of the name, say, of Wong, have entered with a chance of success (for details as to favourites are as keenly studied by the interested people as they are in a race at home), steps will be taken to prevent their success. Some are even prevented from entering their names at all, if doing so interferes with the sweep. Last year the prize was won in a most remarkable way. The lucky winner had not only hit upon every successful candidate, but had been even able to get them in their proper order of merit, thus making a large sum of money. It should perhaps be added that this winner was the Chief Examiner himself. He was impeached, but managed to get the matter hushed up in the usual way.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

THE VICEROY.

H.E. Viceroy Shum Chun-hun, who arrived from Kwangsi on the 27th ult., was to proceed to Swatow on the 2nd inst. to inspect the forts and investigate the characters and conduct of the officials, some of whom have been brought to the notice of His Excellency for making squeezes, levying illegal taxes, and inflicting unnecessary hardships on the people.

POSSIBLE TROUBLE.

As a rumour has been current in Canton that a plot has been concocted by the members of the Anti-Manchu Society to capture the city of Canton at an appointed day, the local mandarins have made every preparation beforehand. People are strictly prohibited from firing crackers, decorating the houses with lanterns and flags, and climbing on to the roofs to view the moon at the mid-autumn festival, the 5th inst.

A RAILWAY SCHEME.

A syndicate started by a native of Fokkien province is now raising capital for the construction of a railway from Swatow to Sam-Ho. A sum of about seven hundred dollars has been subscribed. When he has succeeded in raising the sum of one million dollars, he will petition the Viceroy for permission to build.

DISLOYALTY.

It is said that the disbanded soldiers who were under the command of the dismissed sub-prefect Li Ka-Chenk are now trying hard to save Li. One of his subordinate officers named Ma Wong-pat, who was formerly a notorious robber, but afterwards was made an Imperial officer under the influence of Li, has gathered together a good number of the disbanded braves, who are committing robberies and crimes of every description in Waichow district. It is said he intends to make an attack on the prison where Li-Ka-chenk is confined, when he has got a sufficient number of men.

END OF THE REBELLION

The Kwangsi rebellion is nearly at an end, though skirmishes are still constantly reported in various districts. The troops are generally victorious. Merchandise can now be transported to and fro by the West River without obstruction from the robbers. The leaders of the rebels have either surrendered or run away to other places, for the soldiers leave no stone unturned to effect their arrest. The famine in Kwangsi has also practically disappeared, the late harvest being reported excellent and the autumn rice-crops giving favourable promise. The price of rice is at present about thirty catties a dollar, against fifteen catties a dollar a month ago.

Commander Yao, a Chinese naval officer arrived at Shimonoseki from Shanghai at the end of last month, on his way to Kobe under a commission of the Viceroy of Nanking to inspect the work of the construction of a gunboat for the Yangtze now being built at the Kawasaki yard.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, Sept. 23rd.

DEATH OF MARSHAL FUNG.

Telegraphic advices have been received here announcing the death of Fung Kungpao or Marshal Fung, which took place at Nanning, on the 17th or 18th instant. The deceased, who was 86 years of age, had been ailing for some time, and the present disturbed state of Kwangsi must have been preying on his mind to accelerate his death.

AFFAIRS IN YAMCHOW.

The exodus of women, children and others from Yamchow continues. It is worthy of note in this connection that while some merchants are ordering back the goods they had forwarded to Yamchow some time ago for fear of the rebels, others are sending their goods thither as if the country was in a peaceful condition as of yore.

PEKING.

Peking, 16th September.

The recent propositions from Russia concerning the evacuation of Manchuria are no longer "secret," but seem to be known pretty generally throughout the city. According to former agreement Russia should have cleared out of Manchuria at least eight months ago, and now she proposes to carry out that agreement only by the granting of new conditions on the part of China. Russia proposes to control the quarantine regulations for Newchwang and other points. This puts a great power in her hands, and rules can be made which will greatly hamper trade and the rights of other nationalities. Already Russia is ruling with a high hand in Newchwang, and many Chinese are being punished for not observing all the quarantine regulations. All will agree that Russia can do this much better than the Chinese can, but it should be done in a way that does not interfere with equal rights for other nations. Russia demands the right to place troops all up and down the Sungari river. If that is allowed she will withdraw her troops in a year from Kirin and Tsitsihar. But when we see the windings and tremendous length of the Sungari river we can easily see that having control of that river gives Russia a practical control of Manchuria. The river reaches down to the headwaters of the Yalu river, and Russia would have a line of troops all the way from the coast to her own possessions. This would give her practically the control of Manchuria. The marvel is the readiness of certain of the highest officials in Peking to give credence to these proposals. The proposition is so distinctly in Russia's favour that it would seem that every loyal Chinese would oppose it with tooth and nail. Telegrams are pouring in to the Waiwup from Chinese students in various countries urging their country to stand firm. It is needless to say that these telegrams are mostly consigned to the fire by order of the Viceroy but in any other country on the earth they would be held up to public approval as signs that patriotism is not all dead among the Chinese. Prince Ching is distinctly pro-Russian in his proclivities, and as France brings her assistance to bear on a decision favourable to Russia, we may soon see that Russia's plans have been carried out, as they usually are, when most nations look supinely on...

The state of things in Peking is about as bad as it could be. It is hard to secure justice in the police courts and the common man has a hard time if he has to enter the yamens. Men are taken to the Kung So's on insignificant charges and held till they lose all hope and spirit. After so much talk of reconstruction in the courts of Peking and the hopes entertained on the appointment of Prince Su, the outcome is most humiliating. Without doubt the Prince is hampered in his efforts to clarify city life and cannot bring to pass all that he desires. It seems to be the general opinion that what reaches him personally will be sure of an honest settlement.—N.C. Daily News.

The Supao prisoners are still in gaol at Shanghai, and there is apparently no prospect of a satisfactory conclusion of the case.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the P. & T. Times of the 17th ult.:

A shrine inside the City near the Chen Men which was associated with the Boxer trouble, and which Chen Pi ordered to be destroyed, is now being restored, the caretaker being an ex-Boxer leader. The incident is regarded with some anxiety in certain Chinese circles.

Mrs. Archibald Little, whose *Life of Li Hung-chang* is to appear in England this autumn, has been busying herself whilst in the north of China with preparing a guide to Peking and the neighbourhood. This will be a boon to travellers, and supply a long-felt want.

We understand, on very good authority, that Colonel Browne, R.E., who was in China as Director of Railways during the military occupation, was offered the position now held by Colonel T. R. Wynne in the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., but for some reason the matter fell through. Colonel Wynne has been asked to stay on till March, 1904.

Mr. J. Kerston has just arrived for the Company as Inspector of Coal Mines. Mr. L. Boulanger has also come out as engineer for Linsi, in place of Mr. von der Taelon, who goes home. The above news we received too late for confirmation, but we imagine, from the source derived, it is absolutely correct.

A new American Lodge of Freemasons will be opened in Tientsin during the coming month, under the name of Pei-ho (North River) Lodge, a dispensation for same having been received from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, U.S.A., which also appoints Mr. Lyle G. Emery first W. M.; Mr. Charles F. Gammon first S. W., and Mr. Lewis Erzel first J. W. The list of charter members includes the names of Americans in Peking, as well as Tientsin, among them that of Minister Conger. Pei-ho Lodge will begin its work as soon as possible. A second American Lodge has been opened in Shanghai under the name of Orient. Pei-ho Lodge dates its existence one day previous to Orient Lodge, and is, therefore, the second American Lodge to be opened in China. The two additional lodges will warrant the opening of a District Grand Lodge in Shanghai.

There are persons who still maintain that the order for Shen Ke-wei to be beaten to death was not given by the Empress Dowager but by some official in her name. We may point out that we have made careful enquiry and ascertain that beating to death is a punishment practically unknown in Chinese official and judicial circles, and is therefore not a punishment which would suggest itself. It is, however, a Court punishment, and one which the Empress Dowager, as the head of that Court, has meted out for the punishment of eunuchs and other Court offenders at least four or five times in her life, and it would not be as alien to her as to the official world, and to lay the responsibility of the deed at her door is not therefore the act of injustice that some would have us believe.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE C. C. PAVILION SCHEME.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 29th September.

SIR,—With reference to yesterday's discussion on the question of a new pavilion for the Cricket Ground, it appeared to be the general opinion that the sum required to carry out the only plan before the members was prohibitive. It seemed to me that the design for the pavilion had all the external appearance of a residence, and that in all probability a design might be obtained which would conform, in external appearance and internal arrangement, more closely to other pavilions, be quite as picturesque, probably less costly, and equally convenient. Your report attributes the suggestion of a flat-roofed building to Mr. Leight; that gentleman, however, objected to it, but gave no reasons. I regret this because the ordinary tiled roof as it appears in the design does not seem to have proved an unqualified success in Hongkong. My only object in writing is to prevent a too hasty acceptance

of any expensive and inappropriate design as the only alternative to repairing the present pavilion. I trust other designs will be obtained by the Committee.—Yours, etc.,

W. B. DIXON.

SUPREME COURT.

Wednesday, 30th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

IMPORTANT ACTION AGAINST THE OPIUM FARMERS.

Leung Tsau, shroff of the Registry of the Supreme Court, sued the Chin-Wa Hong Company, Opium Farmers, Bonham Strand, for \$1000, for wrongful entry by the defendants' excise officers into the premises of the plaintiff, 173, Queen's Road East, second floor, on 21st August without a warrant, and for wrongfully and improperly searching the premises of the plaintiff, 175, Queen's Road East, and damaging silk clothing.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. X. D'Almada's Castro, solicitor), appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. H. W. Looker, solicitor, was for the defendants.

Mr. Looker made the preliminary objection that his Lordship had no jurisdiction to try the case. The writ was issued for \$1,000 damages for wrongful entry by the defendants' excise officers, and it was directed against the Chin-Wa Hong Company, Opium Farmers. By section 43 of Opium Ordinance, 21 of 1891, "If any unsuccessful search for opium has been made under sections 29 or 30 of this Ordinance by the request or at the instigation of the Opium Farmer, and there is no reason to suppose that any opium in contravention of this Ordinance has been thrown away or otherwise disposed of with a view to avoid detection, the Opium Farmer shall replace or repack any goods which may have been unpacked by reason of such search, and shall make good any damage he may have caused thereby, and the amount of money claimed for any such damage shall be adjudicated upon by a Magistrate and shall be recoverable as a civil debt under the provisions of 'The Magistrates Ordinance 1890.'" He submitted that the effect of the section of the Ordinance was that all claims for damages arising out of a search for opium must be adjudicated upon by a magistrate, and this case was not within his Lordship's jurisdiction. Plaintiff's remedy was in the Police Court before the Magistrate. It was true there was nothing before his Lordship to show that an unsuccessful search had been made. The section only referred to cases in which the search was unsuccessful, and as a matter of fact no opium was found in this case. They admitted that. But he submitted that plaintiff's claim must be made before a Magistrate.

Mr. Slade said that Section 43 dealt with damage done to goods during search for opium under Sections 29 or 30. In this case the search was made not under Sections 29 or 30, but under Section 31, under a warrant. The remainder of the claim referred to the unlawful entry of No. 173 without any warrant at all and for general misbehaviour.

His Lordship said that was a different thing altogether. Questions of damage to property might be arguable, but he did not think that was.

Mr. Slade stated that the damage to property was small—some \$14.

His Lordship overruled Mr. Looker's objection.

Mr. Slade went on to state that the plaintiff was the occupier of the second floors of Nos. 173 and 175, Queen's Road East. These two floors communicated by a door but were otherwise separated. On the night of 21st August last four Chinese excise officers entered the premises, 175, Queen's Road East, and were closely followed by an European constable. The four excise officers, without declaring their office, entered without showing their mandate. They then proceeded to search the premises throughout. They turned three small children, two girls of eight and four respectively, and a son six years, out of bed with

unnecessary severity. They then searched various boxes and articles of furniture, and in turning out a box of clothing one of them spoiled some articles of clothing with wax from a candle that he carried. Meantime plaintiff had asked the constable whether he had a warrant. The constable replied, "What do you think?" Plaintiff asked to see it, and the constable replied, "You will see it fast enough," and declined to show it. The Chinese had never at any time shown their mandate, as required by Section 6 of the Ordinance. It was no question of demand. Section 6 said, "Every excise officer shall be supplied with a badge bearing such sign or mark of office as may be directed by the Governor, and when acting against any person under this Ordinance every such excise officer shall declare his office, and produce to the person against whom he acts his said badge." Section 7 said, "Every police officer when acting under this Ordinance, if not in uniform, shall declare his office and produce to the person against whom he acts such badge as the Captain Superintendent of Police may direct police officers to carry when on secret or special service." The excise officers and the constable did not show their badges, and he submitted that their acts, under the Ordinance, were illegal acts. When they concluded the search of 173, two of the Chinese excise officers went into 173. Plaintiff asked them if they had a warrant for 173, but they made no answer—at any rate no material answer—and went on searching. Plaintiff then went to the constable and asked him if he had a warrant for 173 as well as for 175, and the constable said "No," and very properly told the searching party to come away. Just as the constable was going out of the door the constable pulled a piece of folded paper out of his pocket and said, "Here is the warrant." It might have been anything. His Lordship would quite see that there was no serious damage done, and indeed the plaintiff had no desire to make money out of the action, and he had brought it chiefly as a matter of principle in order that he might secure as far as possible that the Opium Farmers in exercising their peculiarly odious duties should by his excise officers strictly obey the law and treat the people of the house being searched with as much consideration as possible. His Lordship would see readily how important it was that the law should be obeyed, because unless excise officers showed their badges or warrant when they entered any premises there was no security for the Chinese residents against the entry of robbers under the guise of excise officers. If they were immediately to show their badges there would be no doubt in the minds of the residents that these people were excise officers and were entitled to go in. If they did not show their badges all sorts of trouble might arise, and they might be taken to be robbers in the guise of excise officers.

His Lordship—There is no doubt about that. I have decided that years ago.

Evidence was led for the plaintiff.

Mr. Looker, in opening the case for the defence, said that although the defendants admitted no liability whatever for any damages in this case, they did not want any man's goods to be damaged at all, and were quite willing to pay the value of the damaged clothing. As a matter of law, he submitted that the clothing having been damaged in 173, for which they had a warrant, there was no liability on them to pay at all.

His Lordship—The point, to my mind, is the alleged illegal entry into 173.

Mr. Looker said that apart from that they submitted that, having a warrant for 175, no question of general damages could come in. As regards 173, it seemed quite apart from any point of law, that the plaintiff said he suffered the balance of his damages because the policeman went to his house at night with the excise officers and searched his premises and a crowd collected outside, thinking he had done wrong and that he had lost his character and was discredited. Even although they did go into 173 they could not have done any damage to his character by going for a minute into 173. If they were right, as they were right, in going into 175, plaintiff could get no damages for the searching of that property, because they had a right to search; and possibly, although the defence denied it, they might have gone for a little while into 173.

His Lordship—If they went into 173 without a warrant the plaintiff is entitled to damages. In numerous cases at home damages have been given for searching a man's premises without a warrant.

Mr. Looker said they disputed the entry into 173. He went on to argue that damages of this particular nature must be against the actual people who made the entry and not against the master. Assuming that there was an entry into 173, and it was a wrongful entry, it was not within the scope of the servants' duty and there must be damages against the servants and not against the master. Assuming that plaintiff was entitled to damages, the Opium Farmers were not liable. Having quoted a case to support his argument that a master is not liable for the wilful trespass of his servants, Mr. Looker went on to say that the remedy, if the plaintiff had a remedy, was against the excise officers. They had a warrant to search 175. A constable, accompanied by the excise officers, went up to search the house. He went first and the excise officers followed. When he got up there he found the plaintiff, and the plaintiff asked him to give him the warrant. Very properly the constable refused to give him the warrant and offered to read it, but the plaintiff was not satisfied with that. While this was going on the officers had begun the search, and it was noticed that a box was taken from No. 175 to No. 173 and was put on the table there; and after a little interval plaintiff went into 173. The box was on the table and the excise officers very naturally wanted to go into 173 to search it, but the constable would not let them because they had no warrant and neither they nor the constable went in. As a matter of fact there was some illicit opium there, and the plaintiff took advantage of the conversation over the warrant to get it taken from the house for which there was a warrant into the house for which they had no warrant. Next day the plaintiff made a report to Inspector Collett and admitted that the excise officers wanted to go into 173 but that the constable would not let them, and he said there was no entry into 173.

Evidence was given for the defence.

His Lordship in delivering judgment said he might decide at once on the point of law; if there was any claim at all it should be made against the master and not against the servants. It seemed to him that the case limited itself to one thing—Was there an entry into 173? They had the evidence for the plaintiff, and against that the only evidence was the constable's. His Lordship thoroughly believed the plaintiff's evidence that there was an entry, and he considered that it was corroborated by Inspector Collett's evidence. Plaintiff did not complain of the police, but of the excise officers wanting to search and being stopped by the police. There was other evidence besides to show that there was an entry. On the whole he believed the plaintiff's evidence. With regard to the amount, of course there was not much damage done. Still, the plaintiff was a man in a responsible position, and it was very annoying for him to have his premises entered illegally without a warrant. He thought the whole thing would be met by judgment for \$100 and costs.

Mr. Looker submitted that in view of the amount of damages awarded and the circumstances of the case fees for the retention of counsel should not be allowed.

His Lordship said he considered it was proper to have counsel. Plaintiff's character was at stake. He had to clear it, and his Lordship thought he had cleared it, so far as that case was concerned.

The Court adjourned.

Thursday, 1st October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

ACTION FOR MALICIOUS PROSECUTION.

A case was called in which Su Kin Sheung, broker, 20, Queen's Road Central, sued Cheung Wan Chau, 178, Reclamation Street, for \$1,000 damages for malicious prosecution. Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist,

solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. O. D. Thomson, solicitor, for the defendant.

Mr. Thomson put forward as a preliminary objection that no notice of the action was given, whereas it should have been given under Section 93 of the Larceny Ordinance.

His Lordship held that the objection was not good and ordered pleadings.

The Court adjourned.

REVIEW.

Sand-buried Ruins of Khotan. By M. A. STEIN.
London: T. Fisher Unwin.

We do not remember having within recent years met with so interesting a book of travel in any part of the world as this *Sand-buried Ruins of Khotan* by Dr. Aurel Stein, of the Indian Educational Service. The journey which he describes took place in 1900 and 1901, and was aided to no small extent by the generosity of the Indian Government, which sets an example to many other sections of the British Empire by the way in which it treats genuine researchers. Dr. Stein has already published, in 1901, a preliminary report of his archaeological and topographical exploration of Chinese Turkestan, and he is about to publish in full his scientific report on the Khotan ruins. The latter work, however, will probably be beyond the purchasing power of the ordinary reader, so that the book now before us constitutes his account of his travels as designed for the general public. The author has spared no trouble, as he justifiably claims in his introduction, to render this account accurate in its details and yet thoroughly intelligible to the non-Orientalist. He desires to attract the latter's interest to a fascinating chapter of ancient history, which once seemed almost entirely lost, that of the interchange between the civilisations of India, China, and the Classical West. We cannot think that Dr. Stein's hope will not be realised, for he must be singularly lacking in appreciation of the world's progress who will not find in the present volume much that he did not know, and is glad now to learn. At the same time those who are in sympathy with the adventurous traveller can but follow his story with vivid interest. Dr. Stein started with long experience of marching and camping on Indian ground. He speaks a great number of languages and dialects familiar in the Punjab and the Northern Indian frontiers, and thus, though ignorant of Chinese, he was well equipped otherwise for intercourse with the inhabitants of the Indo-Chinese regions. The Survey of India Department gave him liberal assistance, and he repeatedly acknowledges his gratitude to the Indian Government, inspired by the Viceroy's personal interest in the history and antiquities of the East. He found the Chinese officials courteous and helpful to him. The result has been a remarkable contribution to the knowledge of Central Asian history during a period about which the modern world has hitherto been almost entirely in the dark.

It would be extremely difficult in the course of a short review to give any adequate idea of Dr. Stein's discoveries and contributions to scientific, sociological, religious and philological knowledge. We shall not therefore attempt the task. What stands out in the book is the early spread of Buddhist teaching from India into Central Asia and China, "probably the most remarkable contribution made by India to the general development of mankind." The origin and history of the culture that once flourished in Buddhist Khotan, says the author, are faithfully reflected in the remarkable series of sculptures and paintings which the ancient shrines and dwelling-places, after long centuries of burial beneath the sands, have yielded up. And it was Dr. Stein's privilege and fortune to discover these secrets. An even more fascinating find perhaps to the majority of Western readers is that of a series of classical seals, bearing well-modelled figures of Greek deities, which were apparently in frequent use among officials of Khotan at one period. "The remarkable diversity of the cultural influences which met and mingled at Khotan during the third century A.D.," says the author, "is forcibly brought home to us by these records from a remote Central Asian settlement, inscribed on wooden tablets in an Indian language and writing, and issued by officials with strangely un-Indian titles, whose

seals carry us to the classical world far away in the West. The imitation of early Persian art, of which, five centuries later, we find unmistakable traces in some of the paintings of sacred Buddhist subjects, is a curious parallel, and, from an historical point of view, almost equally instructive.

Much may be expected from Dr. Stein's discoveries, among the mud-buried ruins, of hundreds of documents, on wood and leather, in that ancient script of the extreme North-West of India, known as Kharoshthi, which prove to contain records within as early as the third century of the Christian era and to deal with a wide range of matters of administration and private life. The discoveries are still under investigation at the British Museum, and the task of decipherment of this practically unknown writing is not likely to be completed for a long time. Yet in his twenty-sixth chapter of the present work Dr. Stein is able to give a certain idea of the value and significance of his finds. We must refer readers to Dr. Stein's chapter, as it is not within the compass of the present notice to give a just insight into what has been discovered.

A great number of most excellent illustrations from photographs and an elaborate map accompany the volume, which is got up in almost sumptuous style, doing the utmost credit to its publisher. For the copy before us we are indebted to Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, of Hongkong, who have the book on sale. We can heartily recommend it as a record of travel and exploration which has interested us more than any work issued lately.

DOUGLAS STEAM-SHIP CO., LD

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the Douglas Steam-ship Co., Ltd., was held at the company's offices at noon on the 26th ult. Mr. J. H. Lewis presided, and others present were Messrs. A. G. Wood, C. H. Thompson, and C. A. Tomes (Consulting Committee), R. C. Wilcox, H. C. Wilcox, T. H. Reid, E. J. Moses, W. Davies, and W. Parfitt (Secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said: Gentlemen,—The report and accounts have been in your hands for several days, and with your permission I propose to take them as read. As indicated in the report, we have experienced in common with almost all shipping companies, a continual period of depression, and regret that there are no immediate prospects of improvement. Unfortunately, outside steamers failing to find employment in their usual trade come on to the coast, increasing the already excessive competition and further materially reducing our earnings. You will see from the accounts that the profit on sale of *Formosa* was \$43,18.98, and as it is not intended under present circumstances to replace her, the General Managers and Consulting Committee decided, after full consideration, to distribute out of the profits a dividend of 6 per cent. for the year, apportioning the balance to reserve and depreciation as set forth in the report. It is well I should remind shareholders that the prospects of the current year are most unpromising, but when prosperous times return, as we all hope they soon will, we are in a strong position and will not fail to take the fullest advantage of them. If shareholders desire any further information I will be pleased to answer any questions.

There were no questions.

The CHAIRMAN having moved the adoption of the report and accounts,

Mr. DAVIES seconded, and the motion was carried.

The re-election of the Hon. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. C. H. Thompson, A. G. Wood, and C. A. Tomes as members of the Consulting Committee was agreed to on the motion of Mr. H. C. WILCOX seconded by Mr. E. J. MOSES.

Mr. T. H. REID moved, and Mr. R. C. WILCOX seconded, that Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. R. Lowe be re-elected auditors. The motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

The Emperor and Empress of Japan have contributed 6,500 yen to a fund for the relief of sufferers by recent storms and floods in Formosa.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-second ordinary general meeting, to be held at the offices of the general agents, on Thursday, the 22nd October, at noon:—

1902 ACCOUNT.

The result of the year's working is a credit balance of \$360,551.96, out of which, and with the approval of the shareholders, it is proposed to pay a dividend of 30 per cent. (= \$15 per share), to add \$50,000 to the reserve fund, raising the latter to \$1,300,000, to appropriate \$50,000 for the formation of a re-insurance fund, and to carry forward the balance of \$110,551.96 to the current year's account.

1903 ACCOUNT.

The working of the office compares favourably with that of last year at a similar period.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Since the last meeting Mr. D. M. Moses has resigned his seat. To meet this vacancy Mr. E. Shellim was nominated and his appointment requires the confirmation of shareholders. The present members, The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. D. E. Brown, F. Maitland, J. H. Lewis, and E. Shellim, retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and R. Chatterton Wilcox, and their re-election is recommended.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,

General Agents.

Hongkong, 26th September, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT for the year ending 31st December, 1902.	
LIABILITIES	
Capital subscribed	\$2,500,000.00
Amount paid-up	500,000.00
Reserve fund	1,250,000.00
Outstanding dividends	7,046.00
Accounts payable	129,000.00
Balance of working account, 1902	360,551.96
	\$2,237,597.96
ASSETS	
Cash, on current account with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	133,842.67
Fixed deposits, with banks in Hongkong	225,000.00
Mortgages and debentures, in Hongkong and Shanghai	1,393,756.88
Chinese Imperial Government loan, 1896	51,388.10
United States bonds (4 per cent. loan, 1925)	400,000.00
Interest accrued but not yet payable	33,610.33
	\$2,237,597.96
WORKING ACCOUNT, 1902.	
To amount brought forward from last account	\$ 80,056.99
To net premium received, less returns and re-insurances	1,527,573.41
To exchange	6,839.92
To interest	148,063.53
To transfer fees	48.00
	\$1,762,586.85
By losses and claims paid	1,162,052.93
By charges, including directors', auditors' and survey fees, agents' expenses, &c.	101,480.30
By commissions	138,501.66
By balance as above	360,551.96
	\$1,762,586.85

During the off-racing season if any enthusiast should desire to indulge in the treat of witnessing an exhilarating pony-gallop, he could not do better than take a stroll round the Wongneicheong district in the early morning. The mafocs of the various stables in the Eastern part of the city are forbidden to exercise their horses on the racecourse, but that exemption means little to them, for they still have the public road on which to race, and they do race. As a general rule the mafocs ride without saddle or bridle, but the pace they get their mounts to go at effectually clears the road and makes the hurrying coolies rush into the ditch to escape extermination. From a picturesque point of view the spectacle of twenty or thirty ponies scurrying along the public road would be hard to beat, but it does not make for public safety.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the members of the Cricket Club was held on the 23rd ult. in the Cricket Pavilion. Mr. E. W. Mitchell, President, presided over a large attendance of members.

The Hon. SECRETARY (Mr. A. G. Ward) having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said the first business before the meeting was the consideration of the report and the accounts, which he would take as read. An item which had appeared regularly for getting on for 20 years was wanting in the present account—he referred to "Pension for Old Man." The "Old" he referred to joined the great majority about the end of last year; he was for many years ground man for the club, and was well known and respected by the cricketers of the seventies and early eighties. The Club started the year with a credit balance of \$1,379 and closed with a cash balance of \$2,428, and \$768 yet to be collected, \$3,196. \$819 was a large amount to be outstanding, but the Secretary assured him that it was good money, and that some \$230 had been collected since these accounts were made up. With regard to the working of the bar, he was glad to say they have had no complaints of bad liquors—it paid its way, which was satisfactory, but he had hoped for better financial results from this source. They would notice there had been an increase of wages to the staff generally, and owing to malaria at the Racquet Courts they had had to provide quarters outside for the staff there. At the request of some of the members the ground was opened during the summer for lawn bowls, but as far as he could gather there had not been much enthusiasm shown in the game except by Mr. Justice Wise, Messrs. Northcote and Chapman. Last May they received an invitation from the S.C.C. to send a cricket team to Shanghai, and as they all knew a team would leave on the 7th October. The XI. chosen were—Mr. R. Hancock (capt.), Mr. J. T. Dixon, Mr. H. Hancock, Mr. R. E. O. Bird, Mr. H. Arthur, Lt. Lumsden, R.A., Lt. Smith, R.A., Mr. C. R. S. Cooper, Mr. A. G. Ward, Mr. W. C. D. Turner, and Mr. T. E. Pearce. Taking the team all round they were a good level lot and should give a good account of themselves up north, but whether they won or whether they lost he was sure they would prove themselves worthy representatives of the H.K.C.C. (Applause.) In conclusion he proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. COOPER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. F. B. DEACON moved that Mr. Mitchell be re-elected President.

Mr. R. K. LEIGH seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The following were elected by ballot to fill the vacancies on the committee:—Messrs. R. Hancock, F. Maitland, P. W. Goldring, Lt. Rimington, S.F., Lt. Solihet, R.N., Messrs. H. Arthur, J. T. Dixon and A. Mackenzie.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the ground would be opened to members on Monday, 5th October, and to play the usual match, 1st XI. v. All-comers, on the following Saturday. It was customary to open the ground on 1st October, but in view of the importance of special practice for the team proceeding to Shanghai he was sure members would not grudge the reserving of the ground for four days over the usual time. A match would be played on Saturday, the 3rd October, between the team for Shanghai and the best eleven that could be raised against them.

The CHAIRMAN then went on to refer to the scheme for the erection on the N.W. corner of the ground of a new pavilion, plans of which were on view before the meeting, the estimated cost being \$20,000, to be met by the issue of debentures. The scheme he said, was not a committee scheme altogether; but had been put forward just to see what the members thought about it. To repair the existing building would cost \$5,000.

Mr. W. B. DIXON, speaking as an old cricketer, said the present pavilion did not meet his idea of what a cricket pavilion should be. In the plans of the proposed new pavilion, however, the

lavatories, etc., seemed to take up too large a space, and the scoring arrangements were capable of improvement. The telegraph board should be centrally situated and visible from all parts of the ground.

Mr. P. W. GOLDRING said he was very much opposed to the new pavilion scheme. \$30,000 was a great deal more than the Club could afford to spend on a pavilion or anything else. Supposing that sum were spent there would be the greatest difficulty in paying it back, even in paying the interest. Something must be done, he agreed, but the expenditure to begin with should be very much smaller. The present pavilion could be put in repair or another pavilion built, but the expenditure should not exceed \$6,000 or \$7,000, and the building should be a one-storeyed building with a flat roof.

Mr. E. H. HINDS supported Mr. Goldring. He doubted whether the Club would be able to pay the interest on the proposed issue of debentures.

Mr. R. K. LEIGH, while agreeing that Mr. Ram had given them a very pretty design of a pavilion, was of opinion that a suitable building could be provided for \$20,000. The dressing rooms should be on the ground floor, and there should be a separate staircase leading to the roof, which should be flat for the convenience of spectators viewing the matches, and which should be provided with a verandah and protected from the weather.

His Honour A. G. WISE suggested that the matter should be referred to the committee in order to see if the money could be raised at all on the debentures. He very much doubted whether they would ever get \$25,000 or \$30,000.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought Mr. Justice Wise's suggestion a good one, and that the matter should be referred to the committee.

His Honour A. G. WISE—What is the security you offer?

The CHAIRMAN—None whatever.

Mr. A. SHELTON HOOPER suggested that it be left to the committee to consider ways and means and see what possibility there was of the debentures being taken up.

Mr. GOLDRING moved that the matter be referred to the committee for them to consider ways and means and the three alternatives—that we shall carry out the plan as submitted in the paper sent to members, that a new pavilion shall be erected in the N.W. corner of the grounds, and that the present pavilion shall be repaired, (b) and that the committee shall invite tenders for which of these three schemes they, after mature deliberation, consider will be most satisfactory and beneficial to the interests of the Club.

This motion was agreed to unanimously and the committee was empowered to invite such members of the Club as they thought fit to join the Committee and advise them in the matter.

This was all the business.

The report shows a balance to the credit of the Club of \$2,428.23.

The Club played seventeen matches against the Navy, Garrison, etc., of which seven were won, four lost, and six drawn. There were also played eleven other matches (such as "Hills v. Plains," etc.). Engineer-Lieut. G. Moore, R.N., heads the batting averages with 51.00, and Messrs. J. T. Dixon and P. T. Lambie are bracketed first in bowling with an average of 12.90 for 48 and 28 wickets, respectively. The following scores of 100 and over were made:—Lieut. France-Hayhurst, R.W.F., 130 (not out) and 105; Engineer-Lieut. G. Moore, R.N., 113; Mr. A. d'A. Punnett, R.N., 104; and Mr. G. A. Cooke, R.N., 102 (not out).

The annual lawn tennis match against the L. R. C. was played on April 11th, and resulted in a win for the L. R. C. by 87 games to 77. The Lawn Tennis Championship was won by Mr. H. Hancock, who also won the "A" Class Singles Handicap. The "B" Class Singles Handicap was won by Mr. W. King. Mr. E. J. Grist and the Hon. J. M. Atkinson won the Doubles Handicap, and Messrs. H. Pinckney and F. H. Yeats were the winners of the Professional Paris. The Racquets Championship was won by Mr. H. Hancock, who was also won the Singles Handicap. The Doubles Handicap was won by Messrs. W. R. Robertson and B. E. Hanson.

Major Wynne, R.A., and Capt. Cadogan, R.W.F., on leaving the Colony, resigned their places on the Committee, and Capt. Fawcett, R.A., and Lieut. Rimington, S.F., were elected in their stead. Lieut. Sofleet, R.N., was elected as the Naval representative. Capt. Fawcett, R.A., has since left the Colony, and his place remains vacant.

During the year 134 new members joined the Club. The total number of members is now 447, and there are 101 naval subscribers.

BATTING AVERAGES.

(Eight innings and over.)

Name.	Innings	Not out	Total	Highest Score	Average
G. Moore, R.N.	9	1	408	113	51.00
R. B. Garde, R.N.	11	—	416	89	37.81
G. A. Cooke, R.N.	8	1	191	102*	27.28
Capt. Fawcett, R.A.	22	2	517	72*	25.35
J. T. Dixon	16	—	411	118	25.68
W. C. D. Turner	12	—	259	98	21.58
F. Maitland	10	—	299	82	21.97
A. G. Ward	16	—	344	61	14.40
R. E. O. Bird	11	1	177	34	17.70
Wm. Dixon	10	—	156	52	15.60
Lt. H. W. Smith, R.A.	11	3	118	31*	14.75
Lt. Rimington, S.F.	13	1	160	43	13.33
A. Mackenzie	9	2	90	52	12.85
P. T. Lambie	12	3	91	32	10.11
J. Hooper	13	1	91	30	7.53
S. Powell	8	1	47	18	6.71
G. P. Lammert	9	2	28	10*	4.00

BOWLING AVERAGES.

(Eight innings and over.)

Innings	Overs	Maidens	Runs	No Balls	Wides	Wickets	Average
J. T. Dixon	17 2/2	46	622	—	—	48	12.90
P. T. Lambie	11	32.1	8	63	—	28	12.9
R. E. O. Bird	10	96	20	269	2	20	13.45
W. Dixon	8	105.1	19	3.5	7	25	14.21
Lt. Mahon, R.N.	8	62.2	6	42	—	16	15.12
Lt. Rimington, S.F.	12	17.5	13	392	—	25	15.68
Lt. Toulmin, R.N.	11	117.5	23	411	1	3	25.16.44
Capt. Fawcett, R.A.	21	210.1	22	798	—	38	20.94
W. C. D. Turner	9	49.4	2	215	—	10	21.50
A. Mackenzie	8	33.1	5	114	—	5	27.00

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the above Club was held on the 25th ult. in the Cricket Pavilion. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, President, was in the chair. There was a good attendance.

The CHAIRMAN in proposing the adoption of the report (which has already been published) said he always looked upon the F.C. meeting as the harbinger of our cool season, and sure enough that very morning he had been glad to feel a nip of the north-east wind that came to rouse us out of the state of lassitude induced by the long summer season and take to more active habits. Speaking of the report, he thought they might congratulate themselves as a Club on their financial condition. Mr. Sandford had proved a very able and energetic treasurer, judging by the balance-sheets. Last year, in connection with the Shield competition, a sum of \$10 was carried forward. This year the balance carried forward was \$85. (Applause.) With reference to the Club itself the balance carried forward last year was \$219; this year it was \$335. Those figures spoke for themselves. (Applause.) The record of the Rugby matches was excellent. Only two matches were lost out of 14. They were very unfortunate in the Association Shield competitions to have to meet the winners in the first round. He hoped they would be able to secure the Shield this year. (Applause.) So many matches were now played in both sections of the game that before long the question of securing a second ground would have to be considered, so that both Rugby and "Soccer" could be played on the same afternoon. (Applause.) Before proceeding to the other business he would like to refer to the retirement of Mr. Browne from the post of Secretary. Mr. Browne said he felt it incumbent on him to retire. Mr. Browne had acted as Secretary for nine years, and they could not find a better Secretary. (Applause.) It would be advisable, the Chairman suggested, to retain Mr. Browne in the Committee, if possible. (Applause.)

Mr. P. W. GOLDRING seconded the motion for the adoption of the report, and it was agreed to.

Mr. J. W. C. BONNAR moved the re-election of the Hon. President, Dr. Atkinson.

Mr. E. D. C. WOLFE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought it was better to have a change in the post of President every year, but as they wished it he had much pleasure in retaining the position for a year.

Mr. W. W. CLARKE moved that Mr. H. C. Sandford be elected Captain of the Rugby team.

Mr. WOLFE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN moved that Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar be re-elected Captain of the Association team.

M. C. T. Kew seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Clarke, seconded by Mr. WOLFE, Mr. O. J. Barnes was elected Treasurer.

Captain DAVIES, R.A., proposed that Mr. Browne be asked to continue the duties of Secretary. The flourishing condition of the Club was due to the hard work and energetic way in which Mr. Browne had filled the post, and his retention of the duties would enable the Club to get on a much firmer basis even than it was at present.

Mr. WOLFE seconded.

Mr. BROWNE declared that he could not see his way to accept the post; really he must put his foot down this time. (Laughter.) He proposed that Mr. Wolfe be appointed.

Mr. GOLDRING seconded, and the motion was agreed to, Mr. Wolfe having signified his willingness to act.

The following were appointed to the Committee:—Messrs. Goldring, Browne, G. B. Macdonald, R.A., A. R. Lowe, C. T. Kew, and J. Danby.

Some discussion ensued on the subject of the ground being used on Sundays for what Mr. Browne described as "nondescript matches," to the detriment of the pitch, and the Chairman gave the assurance that the Committee would give the matter their careful consideration.

A vote of thanks to the chairman ended the meeting.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club was held on Friday evening in the Cricket Pavilion, the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN in his introductory remarks said they looked forward to the approaching season with peculiar interest, for there had been a very sporting thing done—they had had a yacht designed by one of their local amateurs to wrest the laurel wreath from the crack designer Payne of Southampton. (Hear, hear.) The designer was Colonel Brown, and his yacht was to be launched on Tuesday next. He took that opportunity of wishing the new yacht every success in the coming season. (Applause.) A very old yachtsman, Mr. C. A. Tomes, was also building to the design of Mr. Arthur Payne, who had been so successful in these waters; and they therefore looked forward to some very interesting sport in the Championship class. There were no other new craft, he was sorry to say, but he hoped that the season's racing would have the effect of inducing yachtsmen to build for the season after next. (Applause.)

Mr. JOHN HASTINGS, Hon. Treasurer, in submitting the accounts, said the year opened with a balance of \$106 and closed with \$134. The subscriptions had considerably increased and the Club seemed to be in a sound financial position. (Hear hear.)

Commodore C. G. ROBINSON, R.N., moved that the accounts be passed.

Mr. H. W. BIRD seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. M. W. SLADE, Hon. Secretary, moved the re-election of Hon. F. H. May as Commodore.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. SLADE then moved that Commodore Robinson be elected Vice-Commodore of the Club; Mr. P. H. Campbell, R.E.; Hon. Secretary, Mr. Hastings Hon. Treasurer; and Mr. A. Denison Official Measurer.

Colonel L. F. BROWN, Commanding the Troops, seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

HONGKONG HOCKEY CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong Hockey Club was held on the 29th ult. at the Hongkong Club, Mr. J. Barton (President of the Club) being in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN said that he would follow the usual rule and take the minutes of the last annual general meeting as read. On passing to the accounts, he thought they were very satisfactory, and the debit balance on the Challenge Cup Fund was only to be expected, as it was the first year in which the Cup was competed for, and it had proved quite a feature of the season. While congratulating the 14th Bombay Infantry on their unbroken series of victories, he hoped the Club XI. would bring the cup from Kowloon to Hongkong this season (Hear, hear). The next business would be the election of a president, hon. secretary, hon. treasurer, and five members to form the committee for the ensuing season. After he had proposed, and Major Bewley seconded, that the report and accounts for the year be adopted, which was carried.

Mr. T. C. GRAY said that with regard to the election of a president, a post which Mr. Barton had filled since the Hockey Club was started, he thought that they should elect him unanimously. Mr. Barton had always taken the greatest interest in the club, and he (Mr. Gray) had had a striking instance that very morning when Mr. Barton had written to him to say that in regard to the debit balance of the Cup Fund, he proposed to make the Cup his own affair, subject to the approval of those concerned (Hear, hear) and enclosed a cheque for the amount paid for the cup (Applause). It was impossible to speak too highly of Mr. Barton's very generous act, and he had the greatest pleasure in proposing that Mr. Barton be elected a life member and perpetual president of the club. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. HOOPER at once seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously amidst applause.

Mr. BARTON having thanked those present suitably, and assured them that he was highly sensitive of the honour,

Mr. L. P. WODEHOUSE moved that the following Committee be elected *en bloc*: The Chairman, Messrs. T. C. Gray (Hon. Sec.), O. J. Barnes (Hon. Treasurer), J. Hooper, C. P. Chater, L. Murphy, Dr. Dartnell, R.N., and Major Bewley, R.A.M.C.

Mr. P. DOW seconded the motion: carried *nem. con.*

Mr. BARTON said that before they dispersed he wished to move a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. T. C. Gray for his services as Hon. Sec. during the past season. The Club had never been in such a flourishing condition, which he attributed to the energy of their Hon. Sec.

Mr. GRAY thanked Mr. Barton very much, and assured those present that it would not be for want of trying if the club did not enjoy an even more successful season than before.

On the motion of Major BEWLEY a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

The report was as follows:—The accounts show a balance of \$58 06 to the credit of the Club on the 30th September, 1903. During last season the Club played (prior to the Cup Competition) 11 matches, of which 5 were won, 5 lost, while one was drawn. For conspicuous play, badges were awarded to Messrs. Hooper, Chater, Murphy, Dartnell, Quennell, Barnes, Wodehouse, Carter, Parker, Solfleet, and Donkin. An innovation was the inauguration of a Challenge Cup Competition, on the league system, which was won by the 14th Bombay Infantry, who went through the entire competition undefeated, one match only being drawn. The Club occupied a satisfactory position, being bracketed fourth. The Challenge Cup Fund shows a debit balance of \$126.14, which it is confidently expected will be wiped off this coming season—the expenses in the inaugural year naturally being large. The Club now consists of 89 members. During the year 44 new members were elected; 9 members resigned. The committee consists of Messrs. J. Barton (Chairman), J. Hooper (Captain), C. P. Chater, A. W. Bewley, R.A.M.C., A. P. Solfleet, R.N., and G. Badham-Thornhill, R.A., and Mr. T. C. Gray is Hon. Secretary and Acting Hon. Treasurer.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press, 26th September.)

The Cricket Ground to-day will be the scene of a very important match in view of the selection of the Interport team. In fact the game may be looked upon as probably deciding the side, after which the captain (who is to be chosen by the team) will have his opportunity of placing his men in the field in the positions which they will occupy at Shanghai, and of sending them in to bat in the proper order of going in for the coming contest. There is very little time now remaining before the appointed leader in which to exercise his captainship of the XI. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that the promptest and strictest attention be given to his every order. A lazy or indifferent fielder has a demoralising effect on the rest of the team, as is especially noticeable in Hongkong cricket. In prospect of the seeming difficulty the selection committee have in choosing the last two men (for nine names are practically certain), attention and keenness in fielding will doubtless do much to justify a man's selection.

Of the two teams which take part in to-day's encounter, Hancock's XI. is that of the "Probables." It is composed of:—R. Hancock (capt.), H. Arthur, C. R. S. Cooper, Lieut. Dobbins, R.A., J. T. Dixon, H. Hancock, Lieut. Lumsden, R.A., T. E. Pearce, Lieut. Smith, R.A., W. C. D. Turner, and A. G. Ward. All these are familiar names save that of Lieut. Lumsden, who is a new arrival in the Garrison. He appears to be a cricketer above the average of Hongkong, and may turn out a very welcome addition. Sercombe Smith's side contains some players who would certainly figure in the Hongkong XI. were they able to get away, as may be seen from the following list of names:—T. Sercombe Smith (capt.), Lieut. Blair, R.N., Major Chichester, Capt. Davies, A.O.D., J. Fawcett, R.N., Lieut. R. B. Garde, R.N., P. T. Lambie, J. E. Lee, A. Mackenzie, Lieut. Rimington, S.F., Capt. Bisco, R.A., and Lieut. Foulmin, R.M. The "Probables" will be highly tried, and it is to be hoped that some batsmen will have recovered from the funk which they seemed to be suffering from last Saturday, especially against Sercombe Smith's bowling. It is expected that the names of the selected eleven (or rather we hope twelve) to go up to Shanghai will be known after this match.

Shanghai's "Probables" played the Navy—i.e., a team drawn from five warships just down from Weihaiwei—last Saturday, and made rather an exhibition of them. If proof were required that Shanghai is exceptionally strong this season, this match should prove it. The Club went in first and made 200 for 3 wickets (W. J. Turnbull 71, R. C. Farbridge 7, T. Wallace 37, A. E. Lanning 48 not out, W. H. Moule 26 not out, Extras 9). Declaring the innings closed, they dismissed the Naval men for 32, G. C. Dew taking 5 wickets for 21, and G. M. Billings 4 for 11. The Navy followed on and made 39 for 4 against the bowling of V. H. Lanning, Turnbull, and Moule. The other members of the Shanghai team were W. H. C. Weippert, W. K. Stanion, and W. R. Lemarohand, the late Hongkong man taking the place of McEuen, who was indisposed.

Commenting on the failure of Kobe and Yokohama to raise a cricket team for Shanghai, a sporting writer in the *Kobe Chronicle* says:—"Seeing that the Shanghai men visited Kobe two or three years ago, and that invitations have been twice sent to Yokohama and Kobe to return the visit, it is rather a pity that the invitation cannot be accepted. Hongkong, it may be noted, has accepted the invitation, and an effort is being made to get together a strong team. But of course, with the representatives of the Army and Navy to draw upon, the difficulties of getting a good team for such a visit are not as great as in Japan." Kobe and Yokohama meet each other at cricket about the 26th prox. The latter team is rather fancied.

Apart from cricket, sport has not yet commenced to be exciting here yet. Six-a-side football begins on Monday, when the first two matches are set down for decision. Seven

The CHAIRMAN moved that Messrs Slade Bird, and Pollock, Colonel Brown, and Mr. C. A. Tomes be elected unofficial members of the Committee.

Mr. A. DENISON seconded and the motion was agreed to.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, Messrs. Campbell and H. P. Tooker were appointed Deputy Measurers.

Mr. SLADE proposed that the start of the season be the Ladies' Race on Saturday, 31st October and the first Club race on 1st November; and that the other dates be 15th and 29th November, 6th and 20th December, 10th and 24th January, 7th and 21st February, 7th and 21st March and 10th April.

The CHAIRMAN seconded the proposal.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK moved as an amendment that the races be sailed on the Saturdays preceding the Sundays mentioned in the proposed programme.

Captain CRICHTON, R.A., seconded.

The CHAIRMAN said he would like personally to see the amendment carried. As he said last year when the same subject was under discussion, he did not see any harm in going out for a quiet sail on the Sabbath, but he thought the Club should not race on Sundays for the same reason that they did not hold a race meeting or a polo tournament or a cricket match on Sundays. He did not think a race meeting or a polo tournament would be tolerated here on Sundays.

Mr. SLADE said he was opposed to the amendment. Personally he saw no harm in Sunday sailing, though he preferred to race on Saturdays; but he thought it was in the best interests of the Club to have the races on Sundays. (Applause.) A large number of members, keen sailors, could not possibly get away on Saturdays—Mr. Tomes, for instance, who was without a partner now; and there were many others not in the position of *tailpans* who could not get away.

Mr. A. H. OUGH said he was a keen supporter of Saturday and Sunday racing too, if he could get it, but family men liked to have Sundays with their own people and it was the only chance they got. If the race were fixed to begin at a reasonable time on Saturdays, he was of opinion that most of the members could get away, say at half-past one. Besides, it always appeared to him that they got a better wind on Saturdays than on Sundays. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK thought they should have the start of the races somewhere nearer 2.30 p.m. It would be much more convenient to race on Saturdays and leave Sundays free. Racing on Saturdays was not altogether new in the Colony.

Colonel BROWN was of opinion that if the racing was to take place on Saturdays a tolerably early hour should be fixed for starting, otherwise he foresaw that towards the end of the season a good many races would have to be resailed.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK added to his motion that the starting time for the races be 2.10, 2.20 and 2.30 p.m.

Mr. HASTINGS said they had already been starting too late on Saturdays—1.30 p.m. To his mind the races should start sharp at one o'clock on Sundays.

Mr. DENISON suggested that if the Club races were sailed on Saturdays the Cup races would have to be sailed on Sundays.

The amendment for Saturday racing was lost by 10 votes to 7.

On the motion of Mr. HASTINGS, seconded by Hon. Mr. POLLOCK, the starting times were fixed at 1 p.m., 1.10 and 1.20 for the Championship boats.

Colonel BROWN asked what was the state of affairs regarding the Yacht Club-house?

The CHAIRMAN replied that the question of amalgamation with the Boat Club was not yet settled. There was a sub-committee appointed by the joint committees of the Yacht Club and of the Boat Club to investigate the matter, and they were to report to the joint committees, whereupon the joint committees would report to the general meetings of their respective Clubs.

Mr. CAMPBELL, R.E., moved that the marking in the one-design boat races be 6, 4, 3, 2 and 1 when five boats started, and 5, 3, 2 and 1 when four boats started, and so on.

Captain CRICHTON seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

There was no other important business before the meeting.

teams will compete for the trophy, the same number as last year. It will not be possible to get much idea of what sort of a football season we may look forward to until the six-a-side competition is out of the way. Last night J. W. C. Bonnar was elected captain of the Association team once more, an honour upon which he and the club are alike to be congratulated. He has often talked (though not, as alleged in another quarter, wordy) of retiring from active participation in the game. But the H.K.A.F.C. cannot spare him yet. J. D. Danby's return to the football field should do a good deal to strengthen the club's forward line.

(Daily Press, 3rd October.)

There have been rumours during the week of possible alterations in the composition of the Interport team, but there is now no idea of change. Possibly had W. Dixon been able to join the team, one of the first choices might have fallen to twelfth place, for Dixon's 25 wickets for 14 runs apiece last season and his general good play are a high recommendation. But he is not available, and so the team stands—unless, as is possible, it is to be feared, one of the eleven players may have to decline at the last moment. The twelfth man has now been chosen in the person of A. R. Lowe, a very capable all-round cricketer. Had there been no other left-hand player in the selected XI., many would have preferred to see J. E. Lee as reserve, as there is no harder working cricketer in Hongkong than he is. But the discrimination between the two was a difficult task.

The Interport men will have another good test to-day, when they meet a strong eleven of the Rest, including seven of the team which was so soundly defeated by them last Saturday. After that game it is impossible not to feel confidence in our chosen XI. to beat any team which can be raised in the Colony and the Harbour. By the way, if it be permissible to mention betting (and this is not the London Daily News), it is said that Shanghai men have confidently been offering 5 to 1 on the chances of their victory; and in Hongkong 2 to 1 has been given against our success. May a surprise turn up! is the wish of this Island. After all, such surprises do occur in cricket and they have not been unknown in Hongkong-Shanghai Interport games.

The principal batting and bowling averages of the H.K.C.C. were published (at last) on Monday; but there were a few figures of interest also in the list of those who played in less than eight innings each, which was not published in the papers. The batting averages of Lieut. France-Hayhurst (110 in 3 completed innings) and A. C. Elborough (102 in 2 such innings) are of course artificial, fine bats though both may have been. The following averages are worthy of note:—C. R. S. Cooper, 42 for 4 completed innings; Capt. Radcliffe, 29 for 6; Lieut. Allenby, 29 for 6; Lieuts Blair and Gouldsmith, 24 for 5 and 7 innings respectively. Among the bowlers, E. W. Fitch took 19 wickets for under 9 runs each; T. E. Pearce 11 for 10.98; France-Hayhurst, 15 for 12; A. W. McKinlay, 13 for 12; and S. Powell, 11 for 13.

After all, the Hongkong Boat Club finds itself unable to send up a four to the Shanghai Regatta, the failure to get away of one of the hoped-for men making it impossible to get together a crew to uphold the fame of Hongkong. This is a great disappointment to the rest of the crew (if one can say the crew, seeing how often it had to be changed), and to the Boat Club generally. Next year better luck may be experienced, but it is unfortunate that now, when Hongkong rowing is above the average, we are not able to give worthy proof of its excellence.

The Hockey Club meeting on Tuesday revealed a satisfactory state of affairs. Mr. J. Barton's generosity having met the deficiency on the first year's expenses of the Challenge trophy. This was suitably recognised in his appointment as perpetual President of the Club. The season's play will commence at once, the Club probably meeting one of the warship

teams in the course of the next week, so the energetic Hon. Sec. informs me.

The Wigwam Club's lawn tennis competitions are drawing to a close. In the Championship Hancock has beaten Knyvett in the semi-final round, while in the "A" Class Singles, Sims has also beaten Knyvett. In the Doubles, Trimmingham and Humphreys beat Hancock and Gray.

Shanghai has commenced to practice for the Interport shooting contest, 20 names having been selected out of which the team of ten will ultimately be chosen. The scores made by the 20 during October will count in making the choice. Not much has been heard of Interport preparations in Hongkong, but there is the Imperial Rifle Match on the 17th inst., which will afford a fair guide to our prospects.

Local golfers will congratulate T. S. Forrest on playing, at the Irish Amateur Championship meeting last month, in two matches for England v. Ireland and v. Scotland. He beat both his Irish and his Scottish opponents by 1 hole. The grand totals of the teams were:—England, 62; Scotland, 53; Ireland, 43. Some of the strongest amateur players figured in the teams.

OMPAX.

CRICKET.

R. HANCOCK'S TEAM v. T. SERCOMBE SMITH'S TEAM.

A little before noon on the 26th ult. a match commenced on the Cricket Ground between teams captained by Messrs. R. Hancock and T. Sercombe Smith, the former consisting of 12 "probables" for the Interport team, while the latter numbered 13 and included a certain proportion of possible candidates. Sercombe Smith, winning the toss elected to bat, and Garde and Lambie faced the bowling of Dixon and Lumsden, the latest arrival in the Garrison, of whom much has been expected. The score was taken up to 17 before Lambie was dismissed by Dixon. At 24 both Toulmin and Chichester fell to Lumsden; Fawcett was out at 33 and Garde at 33 (out of which he had contributed 17), both to the new bowler. After this, with the exception of Sercombe Smith no one could do anything, and at the end of about three hours play the whole side was out for 75, Lumsden making a brilliant debut as a bowler and capturing 7 wickets for less than 5 runs each. He also distinguished himself in the field. The "probables" made a bad start against the deliveries of Fawcett and Lee, and two wickets were down for 8. Turner and Dixon then took the score to 33 before the latter was dismissed, when Smith joined the Bank man, with whom he saw the score doubled. Turner left at 72 for a meritorious 49. Runs continued to come, though Smith was out at 82, Hancock at 102, and Ward at 115. The eighth wicket added another 29, when Lumsden retired to a catch by Sercombe Smith, having proved himself a thoroughly good all round man. The end of the innings was only notable for a characteristic display by Arthur, who going in with 8 wickets down carried his bat for 29, not out, including two hits for six clean out of the ground. He might have made more, had not Cooper foolishly run himself out. Arthur was particularly severe on Toulmin, who gave away 25 runs in his last two overs and thus spoilt an otherwise good analysis. Hancock's team thus gained an excellent victory by 99 runs. Scores and analysis:—

SERCOMBE SMITH'S TEAM.	
Eng.-Lt. R. B. Garde, R.N., c Turner, b Lumsden	17
P. T. Lambie, c Lumsden, b Dixon	5
Lt. Toulmin, R.M., c R. Hancock, b Lumsden	5
Major Chichester, D.A.A.G., c Dixon, b Lumsden	0
J. Fawcett, R.N., c Dobbyn, b Lumsden	6
T. Sercombe Smith (capt.), b Cooper	17
A. Mackenzie, c Dixon, b Lumsden	5
Lt. Blair, R.N., c and b Lumsden	0
A. R. Lowe, c and b Lumsden	2
Capt. Davies, A.O.D., c Lumsden, b Dixon	1
J. E. Lee, not out	2
Lt. Rimington, S.F., c R. Hancock, b Pearce	5
Capt. Riach, R.A., c Dixon, b Cooper	7
Extras	9
Total	75

HANCOCK'S TEAM.

R. Hancock (capt.), c Davies, b Fawcett	6
Lt. Dobbyn, R.A., c Garde, b Lee	1
W. C. D. Turner, c Davies, b Toulmin	40
J. T. Dixon, c Riach, b Lee	0
Lt. H. W. Smith, R.A., c Mackenzie, b Toulmin	21
H. Hancock, l.b.w., b Davies	16
Lt. Lumsden, R.A., c Smith, b Davies	28
A. G. Ward, b Toulmin	1
T. E. Pearce, c Lee, b Toulmin	11
H. Arthur, not out	20
R. E. O. Bird, b Davies	3
C. R. S. Cooper, run out	6
Extras	3
Total	174

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

SERCOMBE SMITH'S TEAM.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Dixon	15	6	10	2
Lumsden	16	5	34	7
Cooper	6.2	2	7	2
Pearce	5	1	7	1

HANCOCK'S TEAM.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Fawcett	8	—	23	1
Lee	13	—	48	2
Lowe	5	—	18	—
Toulmin	15.5	3	55	4
Davies	8	—	27	3

THE INTERPORT TEAM.

The team to represent Hongkong v. Shanghai next month was definitely chosen after the completion of the match, the names of the selected players being as follows:—R. Hancock (Captain), J. T. Dixon, Lt. Lumsden, R.A., W. C. D. Turner, H. Arthur, Lt. Smith, R.A., H. Hancock, T. E. Pearce, C. R. S. Cooper, R. E. O. Bird, and A. G. Ward. A. R. Lowe will accompany the team as 12th man, and T. C. Gray has been invited to go as a reserve.

Now that the eleven to do battle for Hongkong at Shanghai has been selected perhaps the following criticisms of the team may not be amiss:—

1. R. HANCOCK. Nearly certain to be chosen captain; fully qualified for this important post. With Lumsden, Turner and Dixon, is one of the "class" batsmen of the side. Has a beautiful style, and his defence is tried to get through. His cutting is crisp and well-timed; he is a more than useful change bowler, and thoroughly reliable in the field.

2. J. T. DIXON. Probably the best all-round man on the side. A dangerous batsman when set and a powerful driver. His bowling never loses its sting and he seems never to tire. A splendid field, especially in the slips.

3. LIEUT. LUMSDEN, R.A. His debut stamps him as a cricketer of more than ordinary merit, with the advantage of being as good a batsman as he is a bowler, and a brilliant short field.

4. W. C. D. TURNER. A very attractive batsman, cautious in the extreme, but when thoroughly set a ball man to dispose of. A magnificent field and moderate change bowler.

5. H. ARTHUR. Possibly the best wicket-keeper between Singapore and Yokohama really up to first class company. A powerful batsman, just a little uncertain, but safe at a crisis. Has played in several former Interport matches, with success.

6. H. HANCOCK. Another very good wicket-keeper, besides which he can bat with more than ordinary skill, is a fair change bowler, and, when not behind the sticks, an energetic field.

7. T. E. PEARCE. First and foremost a splendid fielder, his value to any side in this respect being incalculable. Also an useful fast bowler and a strong, forcing batsman.

8. A. G. WARD. A reliable batsman, but too anxious to score at the beginning. A very safe field, has a very pretty pick-up and return, and has been known to bowl.

9. LIEUT. SMITH, R.A. As a batsman shows strong defence, combined with a nice style, and is likely to make runs when badly needed. A capable wicket-keeper, and in the deep field can be safely trusted to bring off good catches and save boundaries.

10. C. R. S. COOPER. A fast bowler of some promise. Sacrifices a little too much to pace, perhaps, but usually shows an useful analysis. A fairly sound batsman, and good field, noticeably in the slips.

11. R. E. O. BIRD. A left-handed bowler just above the average, fair field, rather weak bat.

12. A. R. LOWE. A fastish bowler, who, when in form, will take wickets. A very fair bat when set, and a keen field.

FOOTBALL.

On the 28th ult. the opening games for the Six-a-side Challenge Cup and Medals took place at Happy Valley. The play evidenced that the season is just beginning, the four teams engaged being quite done up when the whistle sounded full time, after half-an-hour's play.

J. W. C. Bonnar's side scored against W. W. Clark within five minutes of the opening. Another goal was added just on the cusp of time. Result—Bonnar, 2 goals; Clark, nil. The teams were as follows:—W. W. Clark (Capt.), O. J. Barnes, W. A. Crake, L. Chesney, R. E., H. P. Chard, and J. Bosustow. J. W. C. Bonnar (Capt.), H. S. Holmes, C. Humphreys, F. D. Bain, A. R. Rogers, R. N., and W. A. Stapani.

W. G. Worcester and H. A. Brent could not effect a decision, the game resulting in a draw, no score. The sides were as follows:—H. A. Brent (Capt.), H. S. Gaskell, R. E., J. M. Forrester, W. R. Rowley, R. N., P. H. Campbell, R. E., and J. H. R. Hance. W. G. Worcester (Capt.), A. Boyd, Dr. Kew, H. C. Sandford, C. C. Hickling, and A. O. Brawn.

At Happy Valley on the 30th ult. the matches were Wolfe v. Bonnar and Kew v. Danby. The former game was a draw, no scoring, and the latter Danby's side won by two goals to one. In Wolfe's team A. Loureiro and S. A. Seth took the places of A. Humphreys and W. H. Williams.

On Friday two games took place—Clark v. Worcester, and Brent v. Wolfe. The former game was a draw, no scoring; the other, Brent won by one goal to nil.

R.A. POLO CHALLENGE TROPHY.

Lovely weather favoured the final match for the R. A. Challenge Trophy, which took place at Causeway Bay on the 26th ult. at 4.30 p.m. The ricksha-pullers taking an afternoon off put those intending to be present to a great deal of inconvenience, and exertion. It was no joke having to walk from the Ferry to Causeway Bay in riding-boats, as several had to. However, the attendance was very fair and the sport excellent; also the refreshments, so said the pedestrians.

The 33rd Burmas and the Civilians qualified to make their appearance on Saturday: two better-matched sides it would be difficult to get. Commencing at 4.15, the Civilians galloped down and immediately scored a goal. On the call-off the Civilians led by 1 goal 1 sub to 1 goal. Resuming, the Burmas scored a goal and the Civilians a sub, the game concluding with the score standing:—

Civilians, 1 goal 2 subs.; Burmas, 1 goal 1 sub. Mrs. Bryan, wife of Major T. W. G. Bryan, commanding Hongkong-Singapore Battalion, B.G.A., made the presentation of the trophy in a few complimentary phrases.

The teams were as follows:—Civilians—Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Messrs. Ross, Johnstone, and Gedgo.

33rd Burmas—Majors Radcliff, and Strickland, Capt. Carleton, and Lieut. Simpson.

Musical selections were performed by the band and pipers of the 33rd Burmas.

HONGKONG.

The troopship which is bringing out a draft for the Derbyshires and various garrison reliefs is due to arrive about the 26th of this month.

Two cases of plague and one of cholera occurred during the week ending the 26th ult., all fatal. Yaumatei supplied one of the plague cases and No. 3 Health District the other. Two plague cases have been reported since.

Among the passengers arriving by the *Korea* on the 1st inst. were the Rt. Rev. D. J. Dougherty, newly appointed Roman Catholic Bishop of Segovia in the Philippines, and Mr. J. H. Fesler, U.S. Consul at Amoy.

Under the new Servants' Ordinance, No. 11 of 1903, several prosecutions have already been made. By keeping undesirable persons away from the servants' quarters of houses, it is expected that the chief source of obtaining information being thus cut off, the burglars of the house-coolie class will receive a check.

It has been stated that there are between 600 and 700 coolies in West Point who cannot give an account of how they live.

Quarantine restrictions are now in force in Hongkong against Manila (for plague, small-pox, and cholera), Amoy (plague), and Shanghai (cholera). Sanitary measures against Hongkong on the other hand, are still in force in Manila, Netherlands India, Rangoon, Shanghai, Siam, Indo-China, and Labuan and British North Borneo.

For theft of miscellaneous property from a house where he was employed as coolie, a Chinese at the Police Court on the 25th ult. received twelve months' hard labour and was ordered to be exhibited in the stocks for three hours. He was placed near the Clock Tower. The example made will perhaps have a good effect on others of the same fraternity.

We are glad to learn that Senhor Conselheiro A. G. Romano is progressing favourably and is now able to leave the house. As in previous years, Senhor Romano despatched a congratulatory telegram to their Majesties the King and Queen of Portugal on the occasion of their birthday, and a reply was received on the 30th ult. from Count de Arnoso, the King's private secretary, thanking Senhor Romano for the message.

An extraordinary report was prevalent in the Colony on Friday evening that the *Hankow*, plying between here and Canton, had been attacked by pirates at some point between Hongkong and Whampoa, ransacked, and then deserted by the robbers, being ultimately able to reach Whampoa. It need hardly be said that there was not a word of truth in the tale. The *Hankow* was lying safely along side the wharf on Friday afternoon, and no one was more surprised than the Company concerned at the spread of the story.

In the Summary Court on Friday Mohamedji, the Indian servant of Captain H. E. Steen of the 14th Bombay Light Infantry, sued his master for \$20 6d. Captain Steen stated that Mohamedji left his employment without permission on the 17th September. Mr. Justice Wise pointed out that the servant had been engaged on monthly terms; when the month was finished he was entitled to his pay for that month. His Lordship gave judgment for \$15 for the two previous months, less \$3.36 paid by defendant to plaintiff.

The Annual Swimming Sports in connection with the Diocesan Boys' School were held, by kind permission of the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, at Stonecutters Island, on Wednesday. The entries were very numerous and all the events were keenly contested. The following is a list of the prize winners:—School Championship—1. H. Muskett, 2. G. Witobell; Potage and Spoon Race—1. J. C. Palmer, 2. G. Wong; Plank Race—A. C. Siemsen and W. Drude; Arithmetic Race—1. U. Wai-tak, 2. Wai Wing-am; Life-buoy Race—Chu Yuen and W. Jenkins; Diving under buoy—Chan Wing-to; Team Race—G. Evans, H. E. Edwards, U. Wai-tak, and Chan Lam-fai.

With the change of comedy the fare at the Theatre Royal has greatly improved. Since their arrival the Pollards have been working up a new piece, and this they submitted on the 30th ult. in *Why Smith Left Home*. Mr. Merry Lynch as Lavinia was delightful, and he kept the audience laughing by his witty retorts and rich brogue. Count von Guggenheim, represented by Mr. Ed. Nable, a minor light compared with the head of the kitchen—and of the house for that matter—was very funny with his double-questioning, "yes-no." Mr. Wentworth Watson as John Smith had the heaviest part in the cast, and he went through with it in a masterly manner, being ably seconded by Miss Ada Lawrence as Mrs. Smith General and Mrs. Billedoux, taken by Mr. Alfred Tullett and Miss R. Clements, were good examples of a henpecking wife and her victim. Miss Marjorie Tempest's singing is usually a feature of the entertainment looked forward to. In "Awake" and "How could I?" she was rewarded with hearty applause and two floral tributes. Miss Ascoli's dance had to be repeated. —*Why Smith left Home* was staged again on Thursday, while on Friday and Saturday two successful vaudeville performances were given.

The following appointment has been made at the Admiralty:—Engineer-Commander A. V. Blake, to the *Tamar* for Hongkong Yard, to date August 28.

In the final for the Tennis Championship of the Craigengower C.C. (singles), with which goes a silver cup, Mr. A. O. Brawn defeated Mr. F. Rapp by 6-4 10-8, and 6-4. The games commenced late on Saturday afternoon.

The appointments are announced in the *Gazette* of Mr. E. Jones as Acting Assistant Harbour Master; of Mr. E. A. Hewett as Member of the Medical Board; and of Drs. B. L. T. Barnett and H. Macfarlane as Assistants Medical Officers of Health.

Those who are in the habit of visiting the bay on the east coast of Lantau Island, usually known by the name of "Silver Mine Bay," will be interested to learn that a flat-topped rock has recently been discovered there. It is in the middle of the bay, about 200 yards from the beach, and has only about 3 to 4 feet of water on it at low water.

We hear that after the publication in the papers of particulars of a recent robbery from a house on the higher levels, a Chinaman appeared at the residence representing that he was a member of the police detective force, and on this pretence was admitted. He carefully looked over the house and quietly departed. It was subsequently ascertained that he had not been sent to the house by the police authorities. The mention of this little incident will doubtless serve to put others on their guard.

Early on the 26th ult. thieves broke into Mr. Kuttonjee's provision store in Elgin Road, Kowloon. An entrance was effected by the front door and so silently were the operations carried on that no one on the floors above was disturbed. It was found that the safe had been tampered with, but the thieves had not succeeded in opening it. The drawers of the counter has been burst open and the contents ransacked, but the thieves apparently succeeded in getting away with nothing more valuable than a small lot of provisions.

Messrs. Siemsen & Co.'s offices were visited by a Chinese on the 24th ult. for the purpose of selling lottery-tickets to the European assistants. One, however, was too smart for the ticket-seller, taking the precaution of examining the ticket before concluding a purchase, as he had been told that about \$20,000 worth of bogus lottery-tickets were on sale monthly in the colony. Looking into the ticket proffered, Mr. R. Vieck noticed a mistake in the printing, the word Macau being spelt Macan. Chief Detective Inspector J. W. Hanson was called by telephone and the man placed under arrest. At the Police Court His Worship imposed the maximum penalty—\$25.

H.M. battleship *Glory*, with Admiral Sir Cyrian A. G. Bridge, K.C.B., on board, arrived early on the 23rd ult. from Weihaiwei. The despatch boat *Alacrity* sailed for Singapore later in the day.

On the 29th ult. the French gunboat *Decidée* arrived from Canton.

H.M.S. *Fearless* left for Sanakan on the 30th ult.

On the 1st inst. H.M.S.S. *Bramble* and *Britannia* left for Shanghai, while the German gunboat *Tiger* left for Foochow.

Commissioned at Devonport in November, 1901, the term on this station of H.M.S. *Glory* is nearly concluded. We believe she will be recommissioned here for a further term at the end of the year.

Peter Romain Dabarry, examiner, in the Imperial Maritime Customs of China, died at Foochow on the 15th September, the local *Echo* records. Mr. Dabarry was born at Tarbes, France, August 8th, 1831. Emigrating to America, he served during the civil war of 1862, and 1864 in the navy of the United States, and obtaining an honourable discharge at the close of the war, was admitted as a naturalised citizen of the United States July 16th, 1867. Coming to China, he entered the Customs Service in April, 1869. On the 21st of June, 1891, while living at Chinkiang, he was married, his widow with an adopted daughter surviving him. Mr. Dabarry was highly respected by his colleagues in the Customs service.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

SHANGHAI.—Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co. in their circular, dated 18th September, state that since their last report, dated the 4th September, the following business was done: BLACK TEA.—A very small business has been done, only three or four chests of second crop Ningchow have been settled at Tls. 26-27 per picul, and a few lines of Common Congou at Tls. 13-14 a picul, which, at the present rate of exchange, shows an advance of about Tl. 1 per picul. Settlements since September 4th:—

	Per picul.
Ningchow 5382 half-chests at Tls. 17-27	
Oonan 1610 " " 13 1/2-23	
Oopack 1324 " " 13 1/2-15	

Total Settlements to date:—22,180 half-chests against 34,226 half-chests same date last year. Arrivals to date:—36,510 half-chests, against 55,505 half-chests last year.—A fair business has been done in medium Teas at an advance of Tls. 1-2 per picul. Common Country Tea and Local packs have been selling at low prices, viz., Tls. 25-28 per picul, but the volume of business is small. The market is practically cleared of all "Fine" to "Choicest" Teas, with only three or four more chops still to come. The quality of the recent arrivals is poor, being dark in cup and infusion with poor make and colour and very dusty Young Hysons. Pingsuey.—A good business has been done in chops at Tls. 26-39 per picul, showing an average rise of Tls. 2 per picul during the interval. The Market is cleared of clean, sweet liquoring Tea, only Common to Medium Tea remaining. Hysons.—A small business has been done during the interval at former rates. Foong Mees and Son Mees.—Buying has been entirely for Batoum. Medium Teas are firmer and good. Son Mees have advanced at least Tls. 2-3 a picul. Settlements since the 4th September:—

	Per picul.
Pingsuey ... 15,275 half-chests at Tls. 26 1/2 to 39	
Moyune ... 9,422 " " 25 1/2 " 56	
Tienkai ... 8,005 " " 26 " 39	
Fychow ... 8,315 " " 22 " 30	
Local Packed 3,760 " " 23 1/2 " 27	

The arrivals of Hyson and Young Hysons since the opening of the market has been 120,154 half-chests, settlements 110,767 half-chests, and stock 9,387. Telegraphic advices from London give deliveries of Green Tea as follows:—Deliveries of Green Tea to 4th September 2,033,137 lbs.

FOOCHOW, September 25th.—The Settlements of the past week are 2,752 half chests Congous, 669 half chests Souchongs, and 260 boxes of scented teas. The export to date, per consignees, returns, is compared below with the export for the corresponding period last year:—

	1903-4	1902-3
Great Britain ... 3,689,617 lbs		3,758,887 lbs
Australia & N.Z. ... 1,402,031 "		972,109 "
United States and ...		
Canada ... 1,618,876 "		5,495,086 "
Continent of ...		
Europe ... 4,145,580 "		3,833,667 "
South Africa ... 563,300 "		1,016,422 "
The Customs Returns show a total export this season of 19,955,727 lbs.		

JAPAN.—The settlements at Kobe to the 15th September, were 115,400 piculs against 104,000 piculs at same date last year. At Yokohama the total settlements amounted to 181,500 piculs as compared with 160,000 piculs last year. The exports from Yokohama this season amounted to 21,639,972 lbs. This shows a substantial advance on last year's figures, and in fact constitutes a record.

HANKOW, 23rd September.—Business reported since the 16th inst. is as follows:—Settlements, 868 half-chests; Shipments to Shanghai on native accounts, 3,436 half-chests, consisting of Oonfaas, 868 half-chests, at Tls. 12.25 to 18.75 per picul. The entire business to date, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, is estimated as under:—

	1903.	1902.
	1-chts.	1-chts.
For London, America and European Continent.	194,632	147,105
For Russia	532,140	507,030
	726,772	654,105

SILK.

SHANGHAI.—Messrs. A. R. Burkill and Son in their circular dated the 24th September state:—The home markets are quiet. Raw Silk.—Very little doing in Tantees, but there was a small business in Taysams. Yellow Silk continues in demand, and prices have further advanced. Hand Filatures are neglected. Steam Filatures.—Market chops are in small demand in Europe. Waste Silk.—The market keeps very strong. Woolzie pierced cocoons (whole bales) have been done at Tls. 170 for 70 per cent. silk.

YOKOHAMA, September 15th.—Raw Silk: Holders have remained obdurate, albeit concessions of yen 10 were obtained upon Kakedas and fine sizes. Three days since a considerable business was done in Re-reels and Shinshin sorts, but the market closes quiet. The total settlements since July 1st have amounted to 19,603 piculs as compared with 16,897 piculs for the corresponding period of last year. The stock is 9,110 piculs against 9,600 last season. The export this season has been 28,159 bales to Europe and 48,443 bales to America. Waste Silk and Cocoons.—The market has been very active especially in Oshiu Noshi, buyers even entering upon negotiations before the commodity had appeared in the market. Settlements amount to 4,500 piculs. This season's export has amounted to 50,384 piculs.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 2nd October.—No arrivals.

Kobe.—Very little business has transpired recently owing to the uncertainty existing as to the Government's intentions with regard to the operation of the Monopoly Act, which comes into force on October 1st.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 2nd October.—The prices are the same as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.40 to \$8.45 per c.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.55 to 7.60 "
Do. No. 1, Brown.....	6.10 to 6.15 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.30 to 8.35 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.45 to 7.50 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.85 to 5.90 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.70 to 5.75 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.70 to 12.75 "
Shekloong "	10.80 to 10.85 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 2nd October.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.20 to \$3.25
" Round, Good quality	4.90 to 4.95
" Long	5.15 to 5.20
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.75 to 3.80
" Garden, " No. 1	4.25 to 4.30
" White,	4.95 to 5.00
" Fine Cargo	5.20 to 5.25

Kobe, September 15th.—The prospects for the new crop continue extremely favourable. Some contracts for new crop. December deliveries are reported at low figures.

COTTON.

Kobe, September 15th.—There is scarcely any business to report in American or Indian, either for "spot" or forward. A good business has, however, been done in Chinese New Crop—November shipments. Grey Shirtings.—Deliveries continue fairly good, and there are several inquiries for stocks, but buyers' prices are still far behind sellers' ideas. Forward business is impossible owing to the very high prices ruling for cotton. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—There is a further improvement to record in clearances, and the tone of the market is more promising. Local prices show little or no advance, which prevents fresh transactions either in stocks or for forward delivery. Worsteds and Woollens.—Deliveries have been fairly good during the last fortnight; but owing to heavy stocks still held by the middlemen, business has not that healthy feeling it ought to have at this season of the year.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 2nd October.—

Quotations are:—	Allowance	net. to 1 catty.
Malwa New	\$970 to	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1,030 to	do.
Malwa Older	\$1,060 to	do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1,090 to	do.
Persian fine quality	\$850 to	do.
Persian extra fine	\$840 to	do.
Patna New	\$1,100 to	per chest.
Patna Old	\$1,110 to	do.
Benares New	\$1,097 1/2 to	do.

FOOCHOW, September 25th.—Sales during the week amounted to 80 chests. The estimated stocks are 561 chests Malwa, 23 chests Patna, 6 chests Benares, 94 chests Persian—a total of 1791.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

SHANGHAI, 17th September (from Messrs. Noel Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report):—Business privately has continued on about the same scale as mentioned in our last issue, and beyond a few indents being placed for spring arrival in special chops we have not heard of any business. Here and there one comes across slight symptoms of an improvement in the demand from the Tientsin and Chefoo markets, and we believe more business has actually been done among native dealers, but as a whole the business is very disappointing. Apart from the dismal state of trade the unfortunate importer has always something coming along to upset calculations, and the latest upward movement in the price of silver has come when it was really not wanted. In addition to this the Native money market is becoming very short of funds, and an advance in the rate of interest, already fairly high, is expected at any time. A feature in the weeks business has been sale by auction of some 1,000 bales American Sheetings in perfectly sound condition. Before the sale it was generally thought that a forced sale like this would break the market, but instead of doing so very good prices were obtained, and the market showed more vitality than any one gave it credit for. Clearances continue fair, but are still far below the average of any decent year. From Newchwang we have not heard of any news, and what few orders have been received have been easily filled from Native sources. The River Ports continue to take goods in a quiet way, and we have been told the prospects of the Hankow market are favorable. There is little or no news concerning the Manchester market which remains very firm. Cotton in Liverpool is quoted 6.40d. but in the present state of things the quotation for spot Cotton is not worthy of much consideration. The export from England for the past fortnight only amounted to five million yards. Prices at auction again showed a tendency to advance in spite of the upward movement in exchange, but we notice that rather larger quantities were offered for sale of 10-lb. Grey Shirtings and White Shirtings.

HANKOW, 23rd September.—The prices are quoted for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 35.00
Do., seconds	30.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	
Do. do. 10/35 lbs. }	24.00
Do. do. 35/60 lbs. }	
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour, average 2 lbs., 50 p. c. short, 30 p. c. med. and 20 p. c. long hair	62.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3lbs. each	11.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	14.10
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	13.10
Green China Grass, Szechuen	12.75
Jute	4.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	12.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	12.10
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	Tls. 12.50
Animal Tallow	12.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	21.00
Do., Plum do.	23.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	19.75
Do., do. do. Wild Duck ..	24.50

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer Ballarat, sailed on 26th September. For London:—100 bales waste silk, 20 bales raw silk, 66 packages lychnus, 2 cases silk, 2 cases curios, 4 cases bristles, 5 cases human hair, 3 cases cigars, 10 packages sundries. For Lyons:—90 bales raw silk. For Gibraltar:—2 cases silks. For London and/or Manchester:—125 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—60 bales raw silk, 12 cases silks, 1 cases feathers. For Milan:—60 bales raw silk. For Barcelona:—27 packages tea.

EXCHANGE.

SATURDAY, 3rd October.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 1/4
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/4
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/4
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/4
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/4

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	234
Credits 4 months' sight	237 1/2

ON GERMANY.—On demand

189 1/2

ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand

46

ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer

138 1/2

ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer

138 1/2

ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight

72 1/2

Private, 30 days' sight

73

ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand

90

ON MANILA.—On demand

nominal

ON SINGAPORE.—On demand

nominal

ON BATAVIA.—On demand

112

ON HAIPHONG.—On demand

1 1/2 p.c. pm.

ON SAIGON.—On demand

1 p.c. pm.

ON BANGKOK.—On demand

62

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

\$10.95

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

57.90

BAR SILVER, per oz.

27 1/2

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd October, 1903.—The market continues dull, with no business of any importance to report; rates generally have ruled steady, with a slight inclination to weakness.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, small sales have been effected at \$632 1/2 and \$633 for cash, closing steady at the former rate. The latest quotation from London is £65. 10s. Nationals continue in demand at \$28 1/2, after a small business at that rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been placed at \$52 1/2, Canton at \$187 1/2, and China Traders at \$61 1/2, and \$61 1/2, all in small lots. Yangtzes and North Chinas are quoted at \$135 and \$11. 225 respectively without any local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—China Fires are still placed at \$89 after further small sales at that rate. Hongkong have changed hands at \$325, closing with sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao, after further sales at \$32 1/2, improved to \$32 1/2, at which rate the market closed steady. Indos, after being on offer during the week at \$85 and \$84, close weak at \$82. Douglases have declined to \$32 without business. China and Manilas, Star Ferries, and Shell Transports have been on offer at quotations without leading to business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars were placed over the settlements at \$96 and \$97, whilst sales were reported at \$98, the market closing at \$98 with probable sellers. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Small sales of Punjoms at \$165 and of Jebeus at 50 cents are all we have to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—H. & W. Docks have ruled quiet and weak, with small sales at \$207, \$206 1/2 and \$206, closing with sellers at the last rate. Kowloon Wharfs can still be placed at \$87, but no shares appear to be available. Farnhams are quoted in Shanghai at \$136 buyers and \$137 1/2 sellers. Amoy Docks unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$153 and \$152 1/2, closing with sellers at the former and small buyers at the latter rate. Hongkong Hotels have improved to \$147 without bringing any share on the market. Orientes have sellers at \$58 without inducing buyers to come forward. Humphreys after sales at \$10 1/2 close in demand at that rate. West Points have been placed at \$50 1/2. Kowloon Lands have been placed and remain on offer at \$55.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs could be placed at quotation, but none seem available. Other

quotations under this heading are taken from Shanghai, where sales of Ewos are reported at Tls. 32 1/2.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands are still enquired for at \$22 1/2. A. S. Watsons have changed hands at \$14 1/2, closing in demand at that rate, and China Providents at \$9 1/2. Nothing further under this heading to report.

MEMOS.—Union Insurance ordinary yearly meeting on the 8th inst.; transfer books closed Canton Insurance Office Ltd. ordinary general yearly meeting on 22nd inst.; transfer books close on the 8th inst.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$635, sellers
Natl. Bank of China		L'don, £65. 10s.
A. Shares	28	\$28 1/2, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$28 1/2, buyers
Four. Shares	21	\$10.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$5 1/2, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$9 1/2, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$5, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9 1/2, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$98
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$20, buyers
Philippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$18, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 32 1/2, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 30, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160
Hongkong	\$100	\$14 1/2, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47 1/2
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$22 1/2, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$12 80
H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$7, sellers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$0	\$320, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$15 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$147, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$250, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$87, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$145, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$187 1/2, buyers
China Fire	\$80	\$89, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$61 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325, sales & sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 225, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$1, buyers
Union	\$100	\$25
Yangtze	\$60	\$135
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$153, sales
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10 1/2, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, sales
West Point Building	\$50	\$50 1/2
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$60, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	50 cent, sellers
Punjom	\$11	\$1.65, sales
Do. Preference	\$1	30 cents
Raub	18/10	\$8 1/2, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$37 1/2
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$58, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$8 1/2, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$18, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$55	\$13, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$32 1/2, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$82, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$1	\$1. 2s. Od.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$26 1/2, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$18 1/2, sellers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 13 1/2, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$50	\$50, nominal
United Abestos	\$5	nominal
Do.	\$4	\$9.10
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$200
Watkins Ltd.	\$5	\$23, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$8, buyers
	\$10	\$14 1/2, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH. Brokers.

SHANGHAI.—Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending 25th September, say:—There has been a little more activity in our market during the past week, a fair business being done in Farnhams, Langkats and Wharves. The rates have remained steady in the two first stocks, but the market for S. and H. Wharves has been exceedingly erratic, and impossible to gauge. A very large lot of shares came into the market for sale which would otherwise have to be taken up in the September Settlement, and this is largely responsible for the decline in rates. Banks.—H. and S. Banks.—Shares have changed hands locally at \$625; the London rate is £64 10s. T. T. on London is 2/6-3/4. Marine Insurance.—China Traders have been placed locally at \$60 and Unions at \$495. Yangtzes are steadily enquired for, but the enquiry does not bring out shares. Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—A fair business has been done in Indos at steady rates, altho' the market forward continues weak. September Settlement shares were placed at 62 1/2 on the 18th, and on the 19th December Settlement shares were placed at 61 1/2. On the 24th 61 1/2 and 61 were done for September and 62 for December. Shanghai Tug and Lighter shares have been placed at Tls. 58 ex div. and 60 cum div. and preference shares at 52 1/2 and 51. The market remains steady at these rates. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co.—On the 18/19th cash shares were placed at Tls. 136. On the 21st Cash and Sett. shares were placed at 135 1/2, and 13 on the 22nd and 136 1/2, 36 and 140 for Jan. On the 23rd at 136 Cash and 137 1/2 Nov. On the 24th sales at 86 cash and Sept. 135 Sept., 137 1/2 Nov., 139/138 1/2 Dec., 140 Jan., 145 March. The Market is steady and shares could be obtained at 136 for cash and 143 for March. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves.—On the 22nd a number of shares were placed at 225 cash, on the 23rd business was done at 220 Settlement; on the 24th at 220/215 cash, and 220 December. At closing we quote 215 as the cash rate, although it is difficult at the moment to give an absolute quotation. Yangtze Wharves are enquired for at Tls. 190. Sugars.—The only business reported is a transaction in Perak sugars at Tls. 70. Mining.—Wei-hai-wei have been placed at par, i.e. \$15 and 20; Kaiping have been placed at Tls. 7.20 October, 7.25 December, and 7.45 December, and for cash at Tls. 7; shares are wanted at the last quotation. Lands.—Shanghais continue to show an upward tendency. Business opened at the beginning of the week with sales at Tls. 104/105 for cash, rising to 106; rates steady at last quotation. Hongkong Lands are quoted in the South nominal at \$153, and Humphreys are wanted at \$10 1/2. Industrial.—Cottons. The only business reported is in Ewos for December Settlement at Tls. 35; Laou Kung Mows at Tls. 35; there are further buyers of the latter at Tls. 35. China Flours have been placed at Tls. 70, Pulps at Tls. 110, Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. Although the number of shares dealt in in this stock during the week has not been large, a considerable number of transactions have taken place. On the 18th the market opened at Tls. 270/272 1/2 cash and for September, 270/277 1/2 October, 275 November, 282 1/2 December. On the 19th at 275 September, October and December. On the 21st at 280 for cash, 277 1/2 and 280 Settlement, 285/282 1/2/280 October, 290/287 1/2/285 December. On the 22nd at 272 1/2, 275 and 270 September, 275 October, 280 December. On the 23rd 275 cash and September, 282 1/2 December. On the 24th at 280 cash and 280 and 275 September, 282 1/2 October, 285 and 290 December. The market closes steady with buyers at 275. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 51 1/2, 52 and 53 cash. Stores and Hotels.—Centrals have been placed at \$25, Hall and Holtz at \$34. Miscellaneous.—The only business reported under this heading is in Telephones at Tls. 68.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Agamemnon, Borneo, Pak Ling, Socotra, Polyphemus.
 FOR LONDON.—Borneo, Pak Ling, Socotra, Agamemnon, Inaba Maru, Simla, Pantalus, Prometheus.
 FOR LIVERPOOL.—Indomeneus, Kaisou, Achilles.
 FOR MARSEILLES.—Agamemnon, Pak Ling, Inaba Maru, Polyphemus, Pantalus, Prometheus.
 FOR BREMEN.—Zieten.
 FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Abessinia, Brigavia, Sazonia, Marburg.
 FOR TRIESTE.—F. Ferdinand.
 FOR NEW YORK.—Nordkyn, Shimosa.
 FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—Indravalli.
 FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Calchas, Kaga Maru, Victoria.
 FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China, Tartar.
 FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Chingtu, Yawata Maru, Guthrie.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL

September

ARRIVALS.

- 25, Alicity, British des. ves., from Nagasaki.
 25, Ayr, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 25, Ballarat, British str., from Shanghai.
 25, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 25, Hupeh, British str., from Hongay.
 25, Indramayo, British str., from New York.
 2, Karin, Swedish str., from Chefoo.
 25, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 25, Ningpo, British str., from Canton.
 25, Sambia, German str., from Nagasaki.
 25, Satsuma, British str., from Shanghai.
 26, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 26, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 26, Kaifong, British str., from Manila.
 26, Kansu, British str., from Chinwantan.
 26, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 26, Taiyuan, British str., from Australia.
 26, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 27, Germania, German str., from Moji.
 27, Glaucus, British str., from Shanghai.
 27, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 27, Hailong, British str., from Swatow.
 27, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 27, Hongwan I, British str., from Singapore.
 27, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 27, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 27, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 27, Maria-Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 27, M. Struve, German str., from Iloilo.
 27, Savoia, German str., from Mororan.
 27, Tai lun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 27, Tungshing, British str., from Wuhu.
 27, Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
 27, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.
 28, A. Apar, British str., from Calcutta.
 28, Cheangchow, British str., from Singapore.
 28, Glory, British battleship, from Weihaiwei.
 28, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
 28, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 28, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 28, Saxonia, German str., from Hamburg.
 28, Themis, Norwegian str., from Iloilo.
 28, Taintan, German str., from Bangkok.
 28, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 29, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 29, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
 29, Decides, French gunboat, from Canton.
 29, Empr. of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 29, Hailan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 29, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
 29, Moon, German str., from Bremen.
 29, Shaohsing, British str., from Canton.
 29, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 29, Zieten, German str., from Shanghai.
 30, Chingtu, British str., from Kobe.
 30, Glenarret, British str., from Otaru.
 30, Han i, French str., from Haiphong.
 30, Hansa, German str., from Saigon.
 30, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 30, Pronto, Norwegian str., from N'chwang.
 30, Socotra, British str., from Foochow.
 30, Wosang, British str., from Tientsin.

October—

- 1, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, Korea, American str., from San Francisco.
 1, Kinkiang, British str., from Canton.
 1, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
 1, Marie Jensen, Ger. str., from Sandakan.
 1, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
 1, Victoria, American str., from Tacoma.
 1, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
 2, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
 2, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 2, Calchas, British str., from Liverpool.
 2, Elisa, Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 2, Hailong, British str., from Swatow.
 2, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
 2, Pekin, British str., from Moji.
 2, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 2, Shanghai, British str., from London.
 3, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 3, Machau, British str., from Moji.
 3, Onsang, British str., from Sourabaya.
 3, Sangkiang, British str., from Manila.
 September—
 25, Australian, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 25, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Kinkiang, British str., for Coast Ports.
 25, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 25, Peichaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 25, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

- 26, Ballarat, British str., for Europe.
 26, Bygdo, German str., for Taiwanfu.
 26, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 26, Kuis Gortschakow, Rus. str., for Odesa.
 26, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 26, Lyra, German str., for Moji.
 26, Ningpo, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Satsuma, British str., for New York.
 26, Ya eyama Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 26, Yiksang, British str., for Hongay.
 26, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 27, Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.
 27, Hipsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Kaifong, British str., for Manila.
 27, Koun Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 27, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Tamsui.
 27, Uda, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 28, Alacrity, British des. ves., for Singapore.
 28, Ayr, Norwegian str., for Kutchinotzu.
 28, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
 28, Shakano Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 28, Sialan, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 29, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 29, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 29, Glaucus, British str., for London.
 29, Gregory Apar, British str., for Calcutta.
 29, Hinsang, British str., for Samarang.
 29, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 29, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 29, Irene, Chin. str., for Shanghai.
 29, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, M. Struve, German str., for Ningpo.
 29, Perla, British str., for Cebu.
 29, P. C. Kiao, German str., for Swatow.
 29, Prosper, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 29, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 29, Taichong, German str., for Swatow.
 29, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Tungshing, British str., for Canton.
 29, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 30, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
 30, Fearless, British gunboat, for Sandakan.
 30, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 30, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 30, Hupeh, British str., for Manila.
 30, Nor, Norwegian str., for Phanrang.
 30, Ron, German str., for Shanghai.
 30, Solveig, Norwegian str., for Singapore.
 30, Tshun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 30, Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.

October—

- 1, Bramble, British gunboat, for Shanghai.
 1, Britomart, British gunboat, for Shanghai.
 1, Hna, French str., for Haiphong.
 1, Kagoshima Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 1, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
 1, Shaohsing, British str., for Ningpo.
 1, Tiger, German gunboat, for Foochow.
 1, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
 1, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
 1, Zieten, German str., for Europe.
 2, Amara, British str., for Samarang.
 2, Hailan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 2, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.
 2, Karin, Swedish str., for Chefoo.
 2, Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 2, Kweiyang, British str., for Tientsin.
 2, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 2, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 2, Saxonia, German str., for Yokohama.
 2, Socotra, British str., for London.
 2, Taiyuan, British str., for Yokohama.
 2, Taintan, German str., from Bangkok.
 2, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 3, Calchas, British str., for Tacoma.
 3, Glory, British battleship, for Singapore.
 3, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 3, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 3, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 3, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 3, Luzon, American ship, for Newcas le.
 3, Maria Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 3, Robilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 3, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 3, Sambia, German str., for Hamburg.
 3, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.

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